

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton today sent a message of peace to the Jewish people, marking the start of the Passover holiday. Clinton's message, which was read by the Israeli ambassador to the United States, expressed the President's "deep appreciation for the Jewish people's contributions to the world and to the United States."

Clinton kills himself after missing out on lottery

Marques of Blandford jailed for 30 days

Aideed: U.N. fomented clan wars
MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali warlord General Mohammed Farah Aideed has accused the United Nations of causing death and destruction during peacekeeping operations in Somalia and vowed that he would never allow a U.N. office to open in the capital. In a statement issued here on Wednesday in reaction to a U.N. Security Council report on Somalia, Gen. Aideed, who is chairman of the main Somali National Alliance (SNA) faction, said he had rejected a request by the U.N. to open a liaison office in Mogadishu. The Somali warlord said foreign interference was responsible for "the death and destruction which left tens of thousands of people dead and their properties destroyed, and this has left painful memories in the minds of Somalis which may take a long period to heal." Gen. Aideed also accused the United Nations in general and Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in particular of having "created most of the rival factions in Somalia and supplied them with arms and money to finance their war activities."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية. الراي

Volume 19 Number 5892

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 13-14, 1995, THU ALQ'EDAH 13-14, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Palestinians lack medical care in Lebanon
BEIRUT (R) — The U.N. agency caring for Palestinian refugees, said on Wednesday more than 300,000 Palestinians in Lebanon are not getting sufficient medical care because of rising costs. Linnell Brissan, head of UNRWA's mission in Lebanon, also said the agency would continue to provide essential services to some three million Palestinian refugees in the Middle East for at least five more years. The main reason behind the decline in services to the Lebanon refugees was that fees charged by doctors under contract to the agency have risen 50 per cent over 1994, Mr. Brissan said. "There is a problem pertaining to the provision of medical services to Palestinians in Lebanon... one can bear such a rise in costs," Mr. Brissan told reporters in Beirut after meeting Lebanese Foreign Ministry officials. "We strive to find the necessary funds to deal with the subject to medical services which is a grave matter from a humanitarian point of view, no case faced by any family to medicate its child can be ignored," Mr. Brissan added.

Kabariti, U.S. senator hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti on Wednesday received American Senator Hank Brown (Republican-Colorado) and discussed with him issues of concern to Jordan and the U.N. with special emphasis on the Middle East peace process. Mr. Kabariti briefed Sen. Brown on Jordan's stand on the process and thanked the American Senator for endorsing the write-off of Jordanian debts to the U.S. Mr. Brown commended His Majesty King Hussein's leadership and key role in the peace process.

Panel to support Jerusalem meets

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Assembly for the Committee to Support the Steadfastness of Jerusalem met Wednesday under the chairmanship of Assem Ghosheh and discussed its 1994 financial and administrative reports. The assembly discussed means to continue collecting funds for the occupied city to support the steadfastness of its Palestinian inhabitants and preserve its Arab and Islamic character. The committee has thus far collected JD 170,683.

Mass trial opens in Cairo

CAIRO (AFP) — The mass trial of 42 people charged with trying to overthrow the Egyptian government opened in the high military court here on Wednesday. The fundamentalists, who belong to the outlawed Talaah Al Fatah, were arrested in December in a sweep of Cairo, Alexandria and the northern Nile Delta. The group is the military wing of Jihad, which was one of the main armed militant organisations in Egypt in the 1980s and was responsible for the 1981 assassination of former President Anwar Al Sadat. Two of the defendants are accused of the murder of a policeman and two Coptic Christians in an armed attack on a jewellers store in February 1994. Others are charged with possessing arms and ammunition and planning attacks on policemen and telephone networks. All face charges of belonging to an illegal organisation aimed at overthrowing the government.

Iraqi minister ends Qatar visit

DOHA (R) — Iraqi Oil Minister Safa Hadi Jawad cut short a visit to Qatar on Wednesday to attend a cabinet meeting at home. Iraqi diplomats in Doha said Mr. Jawad's four-day Qatar official visit was due to end on Wednesday but he had planned to stay an extra two days. The diplomats said he was the second senior Baghdad official to visit a Gulf Arab state in as many months. They gave no further details about his reasons for leaving. Diplomats at the U.N. said on Tuesday that Iraq had shown interest in a limited oil sale deal for the first time since Gulf war sanctions that have blocked its oil exports.

Top poets blast Iraqi decision

CAIRO (AP) — Two prominent Iraqi poets stripped of their citizenship for taking part in a cultural event in Saudi Arabia called the decision irrational and despicable. Iraq revoked the citizenship of Mohammed Jafadi Al Jawahri and Abdul Wahab Al Bayati after they participated in the Janadriya Heritage and Cultural Festival last month. Another writer, Saad Al Bazzaz, also was stripped of his citizenship for lending the festival, which is sponsored by Saudi Prince Abdullah. This decision is weird and despicable, Mr. Jawahri, 94, told the Egyptian weekly magazine Al Mousawwar. Mr. Bayati, 68, described the decision as "hasty, irrational and unreasonable."

PNA orders legislation of guns; militants say no

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — In a widening crackdown, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat sent militants an ultimatum: register all guns by May 11 or police will collect them by force.

Hamas, the largest opposition group, said its fighters would not yield their weapons while Israeli troops remained in the Gaza Strip.

The sharp exchange increased fears of civil war between the militants and the PLO, which has ruled the autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho for 11 months.

Tensions were high on the street, with PLO police quick to draw weapons. Three plainclothes security men pulled over a Western reporter riding in a taxi Wednesday, waving assault rifles as they asked for identification.

Mr. Arafat also called on Jordan to gag Hamas by preventing the group from issuing statements from Amman.

"It is time for the Jordanian authorities to find a solution to this problem," Mr. Arafat's office said.

Hamas issued a statement in Amman Tuesday accusing Mr. Arafat of "playing with fire" after the Palestinian leader ordered the disarmament of militants.

Mr. Arafat's office said: "We have received high-level assurances that the authorities will take action to prevent these statements."

"So we are surprised to note that Hamas has again issued a statement attacking the

Palestinian Authority and fomenting inter-Palestinian strife over the measures the authority has taken to safeguard security."

It charged the Hamas leadership also gave orders and distributed finance from Amman.

"We ask the Jordanian government whether it would allow Hamas to have stocks of explosives and arms in Jordan," the office added.

Mr. Arafat's forces have arrested more than 200 activists from the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups this week, after they claimed responsibility for two suicide bombings Sunday that killed seven Israeli soldiers and an American.

Palestinian Attorney General Khaled Kidra, said 35 Palestinians are to stand trial before a secret military tribunal. He said some of the defendants are militants and others suspected collaborators with Israel. Two Islamic Jihad activists were convicted by the court this week and sentenced to 15 years and life respectively.

"We remain committed to the peace we signed despite all the problems," Mr. Arafat said.

But despite indications the crackdown was more serious than past efforts, there was deepening gloom in Israel and growing support for the opposition's call to stop talks with the PLO.

Militants have killed 66 people since October. Mr. Arafat, under pressure from Israel and the United States,

ordered similar roundups after earlier attacks. But they ended with the activists being released, prompting concern that the current campaign would be no different.

"One thing is clear... they won't dismantle Hamas or prevent them from killing Jews," Benjamin Netanyahu, the opposition Likud Party leader, told a special session of parliament Wednesday (see separate story).

Nearly all those arrested this week have been mid-level activists, not underground military leaders. Palestinian sources said most have also been released, with only about 50 still in custody.

The gun-registration drive received little initial attention Wednesday, with one brief announcement at midnight on PLO-run television.

Brigadier General Ghazi Jabali, Gaza City's police chief, said in a statement that "rough measures will be taken against those who do not give up their arms."

As part of the crackdown, Arafat opponents will be prohibited from forming paramilitary groups, only his security forces will be allowed to carry automatic rifles and heavy weapons and handguns will be licensed only after a security check, he said.

Palestinian police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said no one has yet offered to turn in weapons.

Justice Minister Freih Abu

(Continued on page 7)



An Israeli woman settler with soldiers guarding the Kfar Darom settlement in the Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

Rabin rejects party calls to send troops into Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Wednesday rejected demands from deputies in his ruling Labour Party to send troops into the Gaza Strip to stamp out militants.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Israel will bar entry of all Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the first part of the seven-day Jewish holiday of Passover.

Mr. Shahal told reporters the full closure would be imposed from Thursday afternoon until Sunday, April 16, police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen told Reuters.

Mr. Bar-Chen quoted Mr. Shahal telling reporters on a tour of a central Israel police station "For the time being the announcement is the closure will begin on the eve of the holiday, on Thursday afternoon, until Sunday."

The spokesman said Mr. Shahal intended to urge Mr. Rabin to extend the closure to the end of the holiday. Passover lasts seven days in Israel.

Israel last imposed a full entry ban after two suicide bombers killed 21 Israelis near Tel Aviv. Closures put heavy economic strain on Palestinians. tens of

thousands of whom depend on menial jobs in Israel. Israel had somewhat eased the January ban recently but thousands of Palestinians were still prevented from reaching jobs.

Mr. Rabin told a party meeting at the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, it was unrealistic to think headline groups could be wiped out easily after two suicide bombers killed seven Israeli soldiers and an American woman and wounded more than 50 people on Sunday.

"Those who think (the soldiers) would be enough to pinpoint Islamic Jihad or Hamas activists, are making a big mistake. If we could have done it, we would have already liquidated them," said Rabin.

He also rejected calls to suspend autonomy talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "Slowing negotiations would only boost terrorism and reduce opportunities for a settlement," Mr. Rabin said.

"It is a long and painful war. We have to grit our teeth."

A group of six deputies from Mr. Rabin's party said he should take "draconian measures" against activists from Islamic Jihad and the

Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

The two groups claimed responsibility for the two attacks near the Kfar Darom and Netzarim settlements.

Housing Minister Benyamin Ben Eliezer urged Mr. Rabin to suspend talks with the Palestinians "while Yasser Arafat is not in complete control of the situation" in Gaza.

Mr. Rabin said it was wrong to link the start of suicide attacks to the Oslo peace accords, which led to Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip.

"The phenomenon of suicide attacks started in April 1993 with a suicide car bomb explosion in northern Israel. At that time, nobody knew the accords would be agreed with the PLO in Oslo," he added.

He said there had been 27 suicide attacks, or attempted attacks, since April 1993 but the number of Israelis killed in the territories had dropped in 1994 compared with the previous year.

"In 1993, 21 people were killed in the Gaza Strip against 10 in 1994, including eight soldiers. In the West Bank, the death toll has gone

(Continued on page 7)



SHARIF ZEID RETURNS: Prime Minister (left) and Khaled Al Karaki (second from left) returned home on Wednesday after accompanying King Hussein on visits to France, the United States and Canada. Sharif Zeid was met Nader Thuheirat (second from left) and received upon return home by deputy prime minister Mohammad Abu Oleim (third from left) (Petra photo)

Musa slams 'weak' U.N. nuclear promise

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on Wednesday slammed a U.N. resolution promising help to countries threatened by nuclear weapons as weak and little more than empty words.

"The U.N. resolution is weak and a disappointment to the non-nuclear nations and it is largely just verbiage," Mr. Musa told journalists after meetings with President Hosni Mubarak.

The decision doesn't go to the root of the matter. We are not happy with it and don't see that it represents any step forward," he added.

The U.N. Security Council on Tuesday adopted a resolution promising "technical, medical, scientific or humanitarian assistance" to non-nuclear states belonging to the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) that are attacked or threatened by nuclear (arms see inside).

The measure was similar to individual promises made last week by each of the "big five" nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain.

The resolution also calls on "all nations to pursue in good faith" negotiations on "a treaty for general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control."

Developing nations had insisted in the debate on the resolution that nuclear powers must work harder towards disarmament to gain their agreement to an unlimited extension of the NPT.

U.N. conference on NPT renewal will begin Monday in New York and last until May 12.

A senior official in the Egyptian foreign ministry, Mohammed Karam, said Monday that the non-aligned nations will ask the major powers for a timetable for elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

Egypt says it will refuse an unlimited extension of the NPT unless Israeli joins the other 170 members states belonging to the pact.

But Israel, which has never confirmed Western estimates that it has 200 nuclear warheads, has refused citing its security concerns.

Cairo has called for a limited renewal to be reexamined every five years.

The five nuclear states — China, France, Russia, Britain and the United States — presented the resolution for a vote less than a week before the more than 170 parties to the NPT hold their review and extension conference to determine the fate of the treaty.

The assurances by the five and the Security Council on behalf of the international community are considered by many parties to the treaty as crucial if the NPT is to be extended indefinitely.

France drops drive to lift sanctions against Iraq

PARIS (Agencies) — France said Wednesday it was too soon to lift a four-year-old embargo against Iraq, following a report by a United Nations arms monitoring commission that Baghdad had not fully disclosed its biological weapons potential.

French foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duque said "the time has not come to debate" the lifting of the oil embargo at an upcoming meeting of the U.N. Security Council, adding that France would reaffirm its support for the efforts of the U.N. special commission (UNSCOM) and its chairman, Rolf Ekeus.

The UNSCOM report presented to the Security Council Monday said there was a high risk that undisclosed materials purchased by Baghdad were intended to make biological weapons.

The report put an end to Iraq's hopes of seeing a lifting of the U.N. oil embargo imposed on it after the 1991 Gulf war.

France, Russia and China had recently announced they would seek lifting of the embargo as soon as Iraq had fully complied with Security Council resolutions.

Washington and London want to maintain the embargo, which is directly linked to Iraqi disarmament.

Mr. Duque referred to the

presentation in New York later on Wednesday of the 40-page report by Mr. Rolf Ekeus.

"France will note that given the deficiencies registered by Ekeus in the biological field this is not the time to debate (an easing of sanctions)," Mr. Duque told reporters.

The document dismisses Iraq's claim that it had important large quantities of biological materials for hospital laboratories.

Mr. Ekeus also reported larger amounts than in his previous reports and that there was a high risk they had been purchased for biological warfare.

France, Iraq's largest Western creditor, has been pressing for months for a gradual easing of sanctions.

Oil sale deal

Iraq has shown interest in a promised limited oil sale deal for the first time, offering amendments to a U.S.-British draft resolution, diplomats said.

But envoys were not certain if the Iraqi proposals meant Baghdad would eventually accept a deal or was trying to delay the draft resolution. Some of the amendments, they said, would be unacceptable to the sponsors.

One amendment asks for \$2 billion in sales over 90 days rather than the \$1 billion in the original draft proposed by Argentina, Britain, the United States and Oman.

This amount would come close to letting oil flow freely and would probably be rejected, the envoys said.

No date has been set for a council vote on the deal, which is not expected until next week at the earliest.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, in New York this week, rejected the U.S.-British draft but said he would consider a "new" resolution if it had radical changes.

Iraq, however, is cautious in approving any limited oil sale deal if it interferes with getting sanctions on oil exports lifted entirely.

The limited oil sale deal is separate from the lifting of the oil and is intended to raise money for needed food and medical supplies for Iraq.

Under this plan, an update of a similar one first approved by the Security Council in 1991 but rejected by Iraq — Baghdad would still have to pay up to 30 per cent of the proceeds into a U.N. reparations fund while additional sums would go to meet other costs stemming

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. urges respect for Kurds as Ankara says 82 rebels killed

ANKARA (Agencies) — The Turkish army kept up its attack on Kurdish rebels in southeast Turkey, killing 82 of them Wednesday in one of the bloodiest days yet in the month-old offensive.

The most dead were reported in Tunceli province where about 20,000 Turkish troops, backed up with jet-fighters, have been cracking down on the rebels, who have been fighting since 1984 for autonomy. Anatolia news agency said 75 rebels were killed in a single operation in the mountains of Tunceli.

Seven more rebels died in separate clashes in Tunceli, Batman, Diyarbakir and Sirnak provinces, the regional governor's office said.

Four soldiers were reported killed.

Reports of the clashes came as a top U.S. official appealed here for more respect for Kurdish people. The remarks by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott was the latest expression of Washington's growing uneasiness over Turkey's attempts to solve its Kurdish problem with military measures.

The fighting in southeast Turkey has claimed more than 15,000 lives since 1984. But it has been Turkey's latest military offensive launched last month inside north Iraq to wipe out Kurdish-Labour Party (PKK) camps

used for hit and run attacks that has particularly disturbed Western allies.

The United States wants Turkey to limit the operation's scope and duration. It is also concerned over human rights abuses as Turkey's military cracks down on Kurdish violence. Congress has frozen 10 per cent of Turkey's \$365 million in U.S. military aid.

Turkey has 12 million Kurds. They are banned from using their language in broadcasting or education.

Mr. Talbott, summing up his talks with Turkish officials, told a news conference that he emphasised that a political system which gives all citizens full rights were critical to the stability of a state.

"Wherever they live it is our view that Kurds like members of every other cultural, religious or ethnic group deserve to be treated with respect, deserve to have their human rights and civil rights respected by the government of whatever state they live in," Mr. Talbott said.

Mr. Talbott said Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu had again pledged that the push against the Kurds, now in its 24th day, was limited in duration and scope.

But he dodged the question when asked how long

Turkish leaders told him the operation would last. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said last week he hoped for official notification soon of a date for a withdrawal.

"Prime Minister Ciller and Foreign Minister Inonu used the occasion of our talks here yesterday to reiterate the commitment, the assurance that (the operation)... will be limited both in duration and scope."

"We were glad to hear that reiteration and... we attach considerable importance to it," Mr. Talbott told journalists after meeting human rights activists and before meeting military brass. He was no more specific than that.

Mr. Talbott said the United States was also concerned about the safety of the local population in northern Iraq and received assurances from the Turkish government about the matter.

"The... issue is that the human rights of the people living in northern Iraq be respected and... civilian casualties be kept to an absolute minimum, one hopes to zero if at all possible," he added.

Local Iraqi Kurds claimed numbers of killings and injuries during village raids by the army.

Baghdad is angry with Ankara for its incursion into northern Iraq.

Bahrain: Unrest will be quashed

MANAMA (Agencies) — The Bahrain government gave notice on Wednesday that violence, terrorism and sabotage in the Gulf island state will be crushed.

The official Gulf News Agency quoted Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khalifa as telling the Shura (consultative) council that "acts of violence, sabotage and terrorism will end and will be quashed."

His remarks coincided with a statement by his ministry that 11 suspects accused of murdering a policeman in a village south of the capital Manama were to stand trial before the State Security Court on Wednesday.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said the Bahrainis were accused of killing 34-year-old Ibrahim Rashid Al Saidi last month near Nuwaidrat village, 10 kilometres south of Manama. The suspects were accused of involvement in other violent acts, said the spokesman, quoted by local newspapers. He gave no details.

Sheikh Mohammad said an "extremist religious organisation" was behind the unrest that erupted in Bahrain last December.

The news agency said he told the appointed shura council the situation was stable and his ministry was dealing with riots with "patience and self-control." Sheikh Mohammad said the sabotage and other violence was not spontaneous and accused an "external party organisation that is backed by a foreign power" of being behind the religious organisation he said planned the unrest.

He did not name the party or foreign power.

Diplomats outside Bahrain said he was apparently referring to the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, an exiled Shiite Muslim group that has been fanning dissent with leaflets sent to residents by fax from offices in Beirut and London.

The diplomats said Bahraini officials privately see Iranian involvement but they have not openly accused Iran.

Residents said on Wednesday that protests appeared to have abated in the past week amid tight security.

Among minor protests and arson attacks was the burning on Monday night of a shop on the main road to Sitra, Bahrain's third largest island.

At least 10 civilians and three policemen have been reported killed and hundreds arrested in the protests demanding the release of political prisoners and restoration of parliament, dissolved in 1975.

Philippine advisory

The Philippines warned its nationals Wednesday against travelling to Bahrain because of the unrest there, President Fidel Ramos announced.

The advisory would not affect the estimated 25,000 Filipinos already working in Bahrain.

Mr. Ramos said the advisory was issued because "there are elements rioting to oust the government. We condemn terrorism, violence and extremism here and in all parts of the world," he said.

The advisory was issued despite signs that unrest is ebbing. The disorders have been blamed on mainly poor Shiite Muslims, have been agitating for the restoration of parliament, which was suspended in 1975, and for more jobs.

Bahrain's ruler, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, said in an interview with the Saudi daily Al Sharq Al Awsat that the agitation was the work of "parties who care about sparking revolutions."

The newspaper said Iran, whose population is overwhelmingly Shiite, would be blamed for the unrest.

Rushdie supporters welcome EU offer but want more

LONDON (AFP) — An offer by the European Union (EU) to increase trade with Iran in exchange for safety for British author Salman Rushdie was welcome but did not go far enough, Rushdie supporters said here Tuesday.

Tehran issued an edict against Mr. Rushdie six years ago because it judged his 1989 novel, The Satanic Verses, to be blasphemous to Islam.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said in Luxembourg Monday EU foreign ministers had agreed to offer Tehran increased trade links in exchange for a commitment to initiate no action against the author anywhere in the world.

However, Mr. Juppe's comments appeared somewhat at odds with reports in the British press suggesting that the EU was seeking merely the creation of a sort of fatwa-free zone within the 15-member union, inside which Iran would guarantee not to kill Mr. Rushdie.

The London-based International Rushdie Defence Committee said in a statement here Tuesday that the EU initiative "marks a major step forward in our six-year campaign."

But it added that any EU agreement with Iran would have to include an Iranian promise not to take action against Mr. Rushdie anywhere, in other words, cancellation of the fatwa.

It said such an arrangement would also have to guarantee safety "for all those named in the fatwa and all associates who are also threatened," including Rushdie's publishers and translators, some of whom have been targeted.

And, said the statement, it would require a "monitoring period of between one and two years to gauge Iran's commitment to the ceasefire before any upgrading of EU relations with Iran."

In Luxembourg Mr. Rushdie welcomed the EU decision to ask Iran to not carry out in Europe its death sentence against him. But he said the EU appeal should extend beyond European territory.

"Their instruction that the EU should open negotiations with the Iranian authorities, at the highest level... marks a major step forward," Mr. Rushdie said in a statement faxed to news agencies.

Mr. Rushdie urged "an undertaking by the Iranian government that it will take no action, anywhere," with the word "anywhere" underlined.

He also said that the safety of all others named in the fatwa should be guaranteed, and that the agreement should be monitored for two years before there was any upgrading of relations between Iran and the EU.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said the plan "tottered a real prospect for a breakthrough."



KURDISH 'PARLIAMENT': A traditionally clad Kurdish hostess tries to organise the chaotic conference at the Hague on Wednesday as west European Kurds meet to form a Kurdish Parliament-in-exile. The parliament is comprised mainly of members of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party fighting for a Kurdish homeland in southeastern Turkey. The parliament will not have a permanent base (AFP photo)

U.S. credits PLO steps against militants

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

The Clinton administration credited Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Tuesday with taking concrete steps to stop extremist in Gaza and understanding the peace process is at risk.

Noting that some 150 suspected militants were rounded up in a two-day sweep, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said: "The Palestinian Authority obviously has taken action."

But the U.S. official also said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman and the ruling authority in Gaza would be held responsible for making "very effort" to solve the two suicide bus bombings Sunday that killed seven Israelis and a New Jersey woman.

"He understands that if the peace process is to go forward successfully, those who control Palestinian institutions in Gaza and Jericho have to have a commitment to the rule of law and to stopping the terrorism that has been so prevalent of late," Mr. Burns said, reading a prepared statement.

Overall, the State Department spokesman's remarks amounted to a mildly positive review of Mr. Arafat and the PNA in their pursuit of militants. On Monday, the new U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, said "we are not satisfied" with Mr. Arafat's efforts so far.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher called on the PLO chairman last month in Gaza to publicise the strong U.S. interest in having suspects disarmed and arrested. Mr. Christopher made the same point in a telephone conversation with him Sunday after the bombings.

Even so, the wide-scale arrests raised some concern that legal procedures could be short-circuited. "Obviously," Mr. Burns said, "the establishment of the rule of law, including respect for human rights, is a very important element in the development of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and in Jericho, and in fact, in the creation of Palestinian institutions."

Palestinian groups opposed to the PLO's recognition of Israel have vowed to keep up their attacks. The 5,000 Jews who live in Gaza are a principal target.

The settlements there and on the West Bank "are a problem in the peace process," Mr. Burns said. "That's obvious," he said.

Following is a USA report on the State Department briefing.

Mr. Burns emphasised that the Palestinian Authority is responsible for taking "concrete steps to effectively preempt and to prevent terrorist acts" in Gaza and Jericho by arresting and prosecuting those who advocate

and practice violence.

Both Secretary of State Christopher, in his March meeting with Mr. Arafat in Gaza, and Vice President Al Gore, in his subsequent meeting with Mr. Arafat in Jericho, "made a very strong case" that the Palestinian Authority had to take tough measures against terrorism.

Mr. Burns said. The secretary followed up directly after the two bombings near Gaza April 9 by calling Mr. Arafat and reinforcing that point.

The Palestinian Authority has taken action, he said, noting there have been over 150 arrests during the past 24 hours in Gaza alone and two lengthy prison terms have been meted out to people convicted of having aided and abetted terrorism or directed it.

"Chairman Arafat has expressed his commitment to addressing the security concerns of Israel and we very much expect and hope that the Palestinian Authority will continue these efforts," the spokesman said.

"He understands that if the peace process is to go forward successfully, those who control Palestinian institutions in Gaza and Jericho have to have a commitment to the rule of law and to stopping the terrorism that has been so prevalent of late."

Mr. Burns said the United

States will rely on the Palestinian Authority to investigate the April 9 attack on an Israeli bus that left at least seven people dead, including a young American female student, as well as a suicide bombing against an army jeep that was escorting vans near Gaza.

"We'll rely on Chairman Arafat and the other Palestinian officials responsible to make every effort to bring the people responsible for these attacks to justice," he said.

Responding to a question, the spokesman acknowledged that the establishment of the rule of law, including respect for human rights, is a very important element in the development of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and in Jericho.

"We know that Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian Authority are grappling with these issues," he said. "We hope very much that they will pay great attention to human and civil rights of the Palestinian population in Gaza as well as making a strong commitment to deal with the problem of terrorism."

Mr. Burns reiterated the U.S. view that settlements are "a problem" for the peace process. "But it's certainly a problem that the Palestinians and the Israelis have to deal with together under the Declaration of Principles," he said.

Mr. Burns said the United

Gazans once jailed in Israel flee PNA police

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Less than a month ago Nasr Al Benfi returned to the self-rule Gaza Strip hoping for a fresh start after six years in Israeli jails. Now he is in hiding again, this time from Palestinian police.

Sufian Khater also recently ended a term in an Israeli jail, like many others sentenced to belonging to Hamas or Islamic Jihad militant groups and who are now wanted by the Palestinian police.

Some have gone into hiding amid the biggest security sweep launched by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) since self-rule was launched last May.

"I have seen too much in Israeli jails. I will not be imprisoned again," said Mr. Seifi who had been due to attend his first session at a vocational training centre for former prisoners the day the police came for him.

"I was planning to get married, my family had found a bride for me, but now I will

hold everything," he said, speaking at his home.

"If the police come for me again, the kids in the neighbourhood will warn us and I will run away again."

Mr. Seifi managed to escape in the chaos of the raid and an ensuing clash with Palestinian security forces. His father and four brothers, two of whom had been jailed by Israel were arrested. Another brother Bassam is also on the run.

Palestinian police launched their crackdown after Sunday's double suicide bombing in Gaza killed seven Israelis and an American woman. The attacks were claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad.

Some 200 members and supporters of the two groups have been rounded up in night raids since Sunday.

"They came for me last night (Monday), but I wasn't home. I knew they would come as they do after every attack," said a 24-year-old

Islamic Jihad activist, who asked to remain anonymous.

Released from Israeli prison last year, he too is now on the run staying away from home and walking around in groups of at least four.

He said he had been held briefly after a Jihad suicide bombing last year near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim killed three soldiers and had to sign a pledge to refrain from any acts against the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

In the downtown Shujia district, Sufian Khater, jailed by Israel for belonging to Hamas had to turn himself in when troops forced open his metal door late Sunday night.

His brother, Nasr said they refused to let the police in because they were afraid they were really undercover Israeli agents.

The same fears were voiced by others visited in the night raids and fuelled by rumours that at least three people in Gaza City and the south had been spirited away.

The families' reluctance to let the police in triggered clashes.

Nasr said: "We asked them to bring the local elder to assure us they were Palestinian police, but they refused, and we refused to open the door."

"After an hour of banging, they rammed into our door with a jeep, and eight men came in and took away Sufian."

He said the family did not know Sufian's whereabouts and would ask the International Red Cross to locate him if they did not hear from him in 16 days.

"Just like in the days of the Israeli occupation," At Seifi's house, the front door, inside walls and upstairs windows were full of fresh bullet holes, table lamps were overturned and clothes strewn on the ground.

Police said a family member fired first, wounding a policeman in the leg, but Mr. Seifi denied the charge.

NEWS IN BRIEF

China, Israel sign cooperation accords

BEIJING (AFP) — Israel and China have signed five agreements aimed at boosting economic cooperation and trade between the two countries, which established diplomatic relations in 1992, the Israeli embassy said Wednesday. The accords, covering such areas as avoiding double taxation and protecting bilateral investment, were signed during the visit of Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Sochat. Mr. Sochat arrived in China Friday for an eight-day visit, which has so far included talks with Finance Minister Liu Zhongli, Foreign Trade Minister Wu Yi and Vice Premier Li Qiang. According to figures released by Israeli embassy, bilateral trade with China soared 63 per cent last year from 1993, to nearly \$250 million. The agreements included a credit-line accord under which Israeli and Chinese banks will provide support to enterprises setting up joint ventures here. During his meetings, Mr. Sochat urged greater cooperation in the areas of agriculture, irrigation technology, chemicals, telecommunications and computers. Mr. Sochat was scheduled to leave Beijing later Wednesday for a trip to the tourist city of Guilin, before moving on to the southern economic powerhouse of Guangzhou.

Two Thais deported for eating children's zoo

TEL AVIV (AP) — Their goose was cooked. But it was the other devoured delicacies — four goats, 40 parrots, in fact, nearly an entire children's zoo — that got two Thai men deported from Israel, officials said. The two Thai men were caught, goose in hand, after they broke into the children's zoo on kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon last Thursday. Kibbutz members had set up an ambush after the animals began mysteriously disappearing, including a favourite pair of love birds. "When we told the children... they were heartbroken," said Ruth Ben-Aroeh, keeper of the communal farm's zoo. The two men told police they sneaked in from the nearby farm where they work and ate the animals. Mr. Ben-Aroeh said. On orders from the magistrates court in the central Israeli city of Netanya, the two men were deported to Thailand on Sunday, said police prosecutor Yehiel Ganon. "We had this zoo for 11 years and have fenced it off. But we never thought anyone would ever eat the animals," Mr. Ben-Aroeh said.

Morocco to free S. Koreans for \$150,000

SEOUL (AFP) — Morocco has agreed to release 24 fishermen of a South Korean trawler seized in February for violating Moroccan territorial waters, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. The ministry said the fishermen and their vessel would be released on Wednesday after the ship's owner promised to pay \$150,000 in fines. The trawler, Atlantic No. 5, had 25 people on board, including nine South Koreans and 16 ethnic Koreans in China, when it was seized off the Morocco-Mauritania border on Feb. 22. The skipper was shot dead when a Moroccan patrol boat opened fire. South Koreans claimed the vessel drifted into Moroccan waters after developing engine trouble. But Moroccans said the trawler had tried to flee despite an order to stop. The incident triggered a diplomatic row between the two nations, prompting South Korean diplomats to file a strong complaint with the Moroccan government.

Sudan, Uganda in tit-for-tat expulsions

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan and Uganda have been involved in a tit-for-tat expulsion of diplomats, Sudan's state-owned television has reported. Uganda on Monday declared Awad Mohammed Hassan, the Sudanese charge d'affaires in Kampala, persona non grata and gave him 48 hours to leave, the television reported on Tuesday. It quoted Omar Yousif Barid, first under-secretary in Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as saying a Uganda government memorandum sent to the Sudanese embassy in Nairobi said Mr. Hassan had been involved in hostile activities incompatible with his duties. He did not provide other details. The television said Mr. Barido summoned Uganda's ambassador to Khartoum, Obite Garia, and served him a notice of the expulsion of Geoffrey Sabiti, the counsellor in the Ugandan embassy in Khartoum, in retaliation. Mr. Barido condemned the Ugandan behaviour saying that the East African country is not serious about improving bilateral relations. He noted that Mr. Hassan's expulsion comes shortly after the Tripoli declaration in which the two countries committed themselves to working for the normalisation of ties.

Israelis arrest Palestinian 'double agent'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli security service, Shin Beth, has arrested one of its Palestinian agents who was also working for Yasser Arafat's self-rule authority, military sources said Wednesday. Jamar Mohammad Barakat, 26, who faces a military tribunal hearing, was arrested as he rifled secret dossiers for the names of Palestinian collaborators to pass on to the Palestinian Authority, the sources said. Mr. Barakat, originally from Jenin in the north of the occupied West Bank, joined Shin Beth at the start of the intifada in 1987 and was considered a collaborator by other Palestinians, they said. Under threats, he fled to Israel with the help of the authorities who settled him with the mother of his son, a new Jewish immigrant from the former Soviet Union. However, he was "turned" by Colonel Jibril Rajjoub, head of Palestinian counter-intelligence, who persuaded him to start working as a double agent in December 1994 at a meeting in the self-rule area of Jericho, the military sources said. The sources said he gave Colonel Rajjoub information about collaborators working for Shin Beth and, during one of his missions for the Palestinians, went to Haifa in North Israel to photograph collaborators living there and unsuccessfully tried to recruit three of them.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
13:30... Desires the Monaca
13:30... My Secret Identity
14:00... NBA
15:00... Survival
16:00... Blue Heelers
16:30... Cartoon for Children
16:40... L'Ecole Des Fais
17:15... Les Cles de Fort Boyard Aquiz
19:00... News in French
19:15... Planete En Equasion
19:30... The Album Show
20:00... The Blue Revolution
21:15... E. N. G.
22:00... News in English
22:30... Feature film: "She Woke Up"
23:30... Burning Shores

PRAYER TIMES
05:45... Fajr
07:05... Sunrise (Doha)
12:30... Dhuhr
17:12... Asr
20:07... Maghreb
21:27... Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 622543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772521.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 625236.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 623528.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures are expected to rise with a chance of showers and winds southeasterly moderate. In Amman which will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp. Amman 10/23

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba 17/28
Deserts 6/25
Jordan Valley 17/27

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 20 Aqaba 25, Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Farouq Nour 786680
Dr. Jihad Zaydeh 881148
Dr. Makhles Hulela 819220
Dr. Abdul Rahim Mustafa 744885
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoth pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisil pharmacy 637660
Nairoth pharmacy 623672
Najid pharmacy 847652

IRBID:
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 248743
Al Quds pharmacy (-)

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 63041
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Police 773121
Traffic Police 843402
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661776
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 644241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642363
Mahas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisil 664174
Smeisil Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mubajrees 771101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 775112/6
Army, Elmarka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 885199

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)722775
Bn Al Nafes Hospital (02)47100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:25... Singapore, Kuala Lumpur
06:00... Beirut (RJ)
06:20... London, Berlin (RJ)
09:15... Athens, Rome (RJ)
10:15... Jeddah (add) (RJ)
10:45... Aden (RJ)
11:45... Sana'a (RJ)
12:00... Hanoi
12:15... Agaba (RJ)
12:45... Riyadh (RJ)
13:00... New Delhi (RJ)
13:25... Beirut (RJ)
13:30... London, Berlin (RJ)
14:15... Jeddah (add) (RJ)
14:30... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
15:00... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
15:20... Rome (add) (RJ)
15:30... London, Berlin (RJ)
15:50... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
16:00... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
16:05... Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45... Beirut (RJ)
08:00... Agaba (RJ)
11:15... Jeddah (add) (RJ)
11:40... Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
11:45... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:00... Hanoi
12:00... Moscow, Toronto (RJ)
12:45... Larnaca, Athens (RJ)
12:55... Paris (RJ)
13:00... London (RJ)
13:45... Cairo (RJ)
14:00... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
14:25... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
15:10... Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
13:00... Doha (O7)
13:40... Shiraj (AH)
13:40... Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
14:00... Riyadh (SV)
17:00... Rome (AZ)
17:45... Athens, Rome (RJ)
18:45... Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:05... Cairo (MS)
21:20... Beirut (ME)
22:30... Istanbul (TK)
01:30... Amsterdam (KL)

HAJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman... 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 700/500
Banana 600/600
Banana (Makassar) 620
Cabbage 120/100
Carrot 160/100
Cauliflower 200/130
Cucumbers (large) 100/50
Cucumbers (small) 180/100
Eggplant 250/150
Green Beans 300/250
Lemon 550/400
Marrow (large) 80/60
Marrow (small) 180/100
Mushrooms 450/350
Onion (dry) 180/130
Orange 550/400
Peas 550/400
Pepper (hot) 500/300
Pepper (sweet) 420/250
Potato 280/200
String Beans 350/200
Tomato 240/150

WHAT FILMS
...in Arab
...in Arab



Acting Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Tarifi, an envoy of Palestine President Yasser Arafat (Petra photo)

PNA envoy conveys message of intent to coordinate on issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Khalid Tarifi, an envoy of Palestine President Yasser Arafat, conveyed a message to the Jordanian leadership stressing Palestinian willingness to coordinate with Jordan on various issues of common concern.

Mr. Tarifi who relayed the message to Acting Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Tarifi, said that the message was conveyed at a meeting at the prime ministry, emphasised that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), was particularly keen on coordinating with the Jordanian leadership in matters related to the peace process with the purpose of attaining a durable

and comprehensive peace in the region.

The message addressed to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, contained Mr. Arafat's congratulations to Jordan on His Majesty King Hussein's successful recovery from cancer.

Replaying to the message Mr. Rawabdeh reiterated the Kingdom's determination to pursue coordination with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in all fields.

Meanwhile, a technical committee comprising experts from the ministries of youth in Jordan and the self-rule areas opened meetings at

New clash at university leaves 3 students injured

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The crisis that followed a fight between two student factions at the University of Jordan took a new twist Wednesday when a group of outsiders sneaked into campus and started a fight that left three students injured, officials at the university said.

Yesterday's incident came amid continued attempts by community leaders to settle the crisis that resulted from last Wednesday's ethnic clashes between more than 100 students of Circassian origin and Salti origin.

Eyewitnesses told the Jordan Times that at 10.30 a.m. Wednesday a group of around nine youths were spotted at the university square and "looking for circassian students."

"As soon as they spotted the Circassian students nearby they drew their clubs, switchblades and chains and started running towards them," one eyewitness said.

Students at the square started running away, but the attackers captured two students.

"They started beating them with the clubs and chains until the plain clothes police interfered to break the fight," the eyewitness said.

As it turned out, a relative of one of the victims confirmed that her nephew's father was from Salt while his mother was Circassian.

According to Salt officials, Wednesday's attackers were youths from seven different tribes in Salt.

Moreover, the officials said that due to a request from the government, the problem must be solved by the university administration, adding that the government requested "that no parties interfere in the case."

Security was tightened up following the incident and security officials prevented non-students from entering the university.

Officials at the university said that only four people were involved in the incident.

The officials confirmed that the four were apprehended and "they were not university students and that they have jumped over a fence."

According to the officials, the four suspects were in police custody.

The officials said that two students were injured as a result and were treated at the university clinic then transferred to Jordan University Hospital and they were discharged.

Visiting Russian official denies mission is to grant nationality

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Russian government official on Wednesday dismissed reports that he was visiting Jordan on a mission to grant Russian citizenship to Jordanians of Chechen, Circassian and Dagestani origins.

Abdulkh Mikitaev, director of Moscow's department of citizenship affairs, said his talks here over the last two days only dealt with familiarising Jordanian officials on Russian laws that deal with nationalities and citizenship as a matter of routine.

In principle, all citizens of the republics of the former Soviet Union who live outside their homeland but have roots there are eligible for Russian nationality without prejudice to their present citizenship," Mr. Mikitaev told reporters in an informal briefing at the Russian embassy.

"My talks here with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior deal with this issue, and I familiarised them with the nationality laws adopted by the Russian government in February 1992," he said.

"We are not launching a campaign to grant Russian nationality to anyone; nor are we propagating any return of such people to Russia," he said.

He added that there is no mission to grant nationality to anyone; nor are we propagating any return of such people to Russia, he said.

He said that the law, which allows dual nationality, should be seen "in a humanitarian context," said the Russian ambassador to Jordan, Alexander Saltonov, pointing out that the legislation "does not specify any nationality (of the ex-Soviet republics) or ethnic minority."

"For decades, many people from the Soviet republics have not had a chance to visit their homeland, and the new law allows them to do so," added Mr. Mikitaev.

This would apply not only to Chechens, Circassians and Dagestanis who are living outside the former Soviet Union but also everyone with roots in the 15 ex-Soviet republics, he said.

Mr. Mikitaev, who visited Syria before coming here and left for Cairo later Wednesday, said he did not have any figure on Jordanians who trace to their origins to the ex-Soviet republics.

In Cairo, Mr. Mikitaev will attend a meeting of Russian consular officials in the Middle East and review "how our consulates abroad conform with the new laws."

In Syria, he said, he was told that up to 60,000 people live in that country who could qualify for Russian nationality. "This is a figure provided by a Syrian institution and I do not have any Russian estimate."

Ambassador Saltonov said meanwhile that two Jordanians of Chechen origin who were captured by Russian forces during the recent Russian military intervention in Chechnya were released.

"They have been released and returned home," said Mr. Saltonov. "I have no outstanding official query from the (Jordanian) foreign ministry," he said.

Mr. Mikitaev's comments on the issue suggested that Jordan had sought European help to secure the release of the two.

Mr. Mikitaev, member of a panel which monitors the human rights situation in Chechnya, said that a delegation representing the Organisation on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) visiting Russian recently had raised the issue of the two Jordanians.

The Russian official, who said the delegation when the subject was raised, added: "We were told the problem has been settled."

Tourism surge, transportation weaknesses force ministry to haul in foreign buses

By Amy Henderson
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A lack of transportation for Jordan's ever-increasing number of tourists has forced the Ministry of Tourism to bring foreign buses to the Kingdom to facilitate travel.

According to Ghassan Mufleh, under-secretary at the Ministry of Tourism, the ministry will allow for the lease of up to 50 buses from foreign countries to alleviate transportation shortage this season, especially during the upcoming haj. He expects that the buses would be available within 48 hours of Cabinet approval.

The Cabinet approved the measure on Tuesday during a regular session.

The decision was prompted by an unexpected boom in the local tourism industry following Jordan's October peace agreement with Israel. To date JETT Bus Company is the Kingdom's only tourist transport firm. Its monopoly was officially ended in June of 1994, but until now, the company has enjoyed a de facto monopoly while regulations for transport companies were approved by the Council of Ministers last month.

Additional buses would help alleviate pressure on JETT and on travel agents who are pressed to find quality transportation for their clients. JETT's fleet of 150 buses (some of which are committed to regular daily lines) is no longer enough to service the number of tourists entering the Kingdom. Since the beginning of the year, the company has leased 65 buses from local companies, many of which, travel agents claim, do not meet international standards for tourist transportation.

Local travel agencies say they are receiving complaints from their clientele about the quality of transportation services from buses other than official JETT buses.

An American group travelling with NET Tours sent a lengthy complaint to the agency following a tour of Jordan detailing the inadequacies of a bus (leased by JETT) that it said made for uncomfortable travelling conditions and delays in travel. In short, they said, "The bus was inadequate for tourism."

The group claimed that because the bus was unofficial

(though subtlety by JETT), they were stopped by police four times. The final "insult," said the group, was encountering difficulties crossing the border with the bus. The group eventually threatened a stop payment on its check to the agent and demanded 25 per cent of the programme cost or 50 per cent of the bus cost as compensation from the travel agent.

"This is a loss for me," NET Tours owner George Bawab explained. "This group is very important to me — they come every year. They send other groups, they tell other people about Jordan. If they tell them something like this — well, nothing compensates for bad word of mouth."

International Traders proprietor Munir Nassar said one group travelling with his agency this week refused to continue their tour of Jordan without a proper tourist bus.

"These groups of unhappy customers will go back and claim (compensation) against their agents, who will claim against us," he continued. But we as agents don't have any recourse against JETT."

Both agents say that the problem, which could have been avoided had it been given serious attention by the government earlier, is not the services JETT provides, but rather the de facto monopoly that it enjoys.

"Fortunately," he said, "we now have a minister who gives serious consideration to these problems and who is pushing hard for arrangements that will alleviate this dire situation."

Both agents agree that bringing buses from abroad will help alleviate the transport problem to some extent. But the only thing that will solve the problem is to end JETT's monopoly on transport and allow other companies to operate.

Last month, the Cabinet approved 18 new transport regulations — of which the primary requirements for any new transport company are a JD 10 million capital and a fleet of at least 50 buses — and is waiting final technical specifications and requirements to be approved, which is expected "very soon."

According to Dr. Mufleh, the ministry is currently reviewing "at least six or seven" applications for licenses. He countered criticism of the steep capital requirements saying that anything less would result in low quality service.

"We also have to remember that the number of buses corresponds of the number of hotel rooms we have and to [tourist] sites' capacity," he said. If everyone decides to open up a transportation service, where would we put everyone? he asked.

While the end to JETT's monopoly is in sight, an end to the transportation crisis for the upcoming season is not so clear.

After adopting technical specifications and approving new company licenses, it could be at least another six months before new companies are in full swing as they still have to purchase vehicles and establish offices which meet the requirements of the new law, which still leaves JETT, travel agencies and the ministry struggling to find creative ways to service tourists.

"We are under pressure," said Mufleh. "This season we have a problem, and there's not much more we can do."

Paediatricians open conference focussing on Arab World

AMMAN (Petra) — The chairman of an international conference on paediatrics which opened at the University of Jordan Wednesday warned that paediatricians of the Arab World were facing major challenge in treating children's diseases and pursuing training after graduation.

Abdul Karim Qudrah told an audience of nearly 1,000 doctors from Arab and foreign countries gathered at the University of Jordan that infant mortality rates in the Arab World are still high, noting that in Jordan, where strenuous efforts are made to care for infants, the rate stands at 40 deaths for every 1,000 births.

Dr. Qudrah blamed political crises, lack of proper training for doctors and failure to

a high rate of coverage in the Kingdom.

Stressing that the protection of human health was not confined solely to the ministry, Dr. Ensour said that the health authorities were giving due attention to child and mother care in the belief that sound and healthy children are basic elements for a prosperous future.

University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh addressed the conference noting that the university had created a special department for paediatrics and encouraged research and studies aimed at promoting health care services.

After the opening session Dr. Ensour inaugurated a medical exhibition in which major Arab and foreign firms



Participants Wednesday attend the opening session of an international conference on paediatrics at the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

are displaying up-to-date equipment and drugs used in paediatrics and opened an exhibition of medical books. Held under the theme: Towards Better Health Care for Children, the conference was organised in cooperation with the Federation of Arab Paediatricians Association and the University of Jordan.

Experts agree on basics to preserve fragile ecosystem around Red Sea

By Cathy King
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Regional cooperation, base-line studies, an environment monitoring system and cooperation between scientists and political managers are necessary to preserve the fragile Ecosystem in and around the Red Sea, participants in a United States Information Service (USIS) Worldnet dialogue via satellite Wednesday agreed.

Integrated development in the Gulf of Aqaba to ensure its sustainability, as well as a partnership between the private and public sectors, should provide an attractive investment climate plus controlling pollution to safeguard endangered corals, said programme officer for Middle East Programmes of International Environment and Scientific Affairs at the U.S. State Department Jonathan Margolis.

Mr. Margolis and Ben Mieremet, a scientist and senior policy analyst at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Washington answered questions posed by participants in Amman, Cairo and Tel Aviv during the Worldnet dialogue entitled "Environmental Protection of the Red Sea Area" yesterday.

Concerns voiced by participants here and in Tel Aviv included the potential increase of damage to sea life, particularly coral reefs, in the face of heightened development of the Gulf of Aqaba.

"We cannot avoid development. But there must be rules and regulations to make it sustainable and to prevent damage to the environment," Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) President Anis Muasher told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Muasher, a host participant in the Worldnet dialogue, added that he thought it possible to carry out projects related to the port of Aqaba, and increase the capacity for tourists and industrial development while protecting the environment.

"It is possible. It will take effort, organisation

and (will incur) expense," he said.

"Industry must be kept at least five kilometres from the shore. At the present time the government will not allow industrial plants to be any closer, and today there are means to export phosphates without the spillage of dust."

In the past, dust pollution caused during the loading and unloading of phosphates and sulphates at the port of Aqaba, has affected the beaches and collected on the reefs.

But Salim Mughrabi of the Marine Science Station in Aqaba maintains that while industrial developments are going ahead in the Aqaba region, more protection has been developed through the use of shutters to prevent the spillage of dust.

"One per cent of loaded phosphates used to be spilt, now it has been reduced to 0.1 per cent," Dr. Mughrabi said after the satellite dialogue.

"There has to be a balance between shipping, tourism and industry and protection of the environment. There has been no dumping of sewerage (from the Aqaba side of the gulf) since 1987."

However, he asserted, regional protection needs to be established whereby all parties follow the same code of conduct.

Dr. Mughrabi explained that the Red Sea is naturally low in nutrients, but even treated sewerage contains nutrients that destroy the porosity of coral reefs. Sewerage also encourages the proliferation of algae which grow and smother existing reefs.

Beyond the adverse effects of pollution, Dr. Mughrabi told the Jordan Times, there are problems between political managers and scientists, which need to be overcome to ensure the best possible protection for sea-life.

Mr. Mieremet, who has been involved in the development of a concept paper for a binational marine peace park in the northern Gulf of Aqaba, told participants the marine park is intended to be multi-functional with swimming, diving and snorkelling areas. He added that there is a potential for an underwater observatory and a marina.

The proposals for the marine park have, he said, taken into consideration development activities but its primary objective is environmental protection.

Mr. Margolis referred to the oil spill contingency plan through which Japan, the European Union, Jordan and Egypt are working together to reduce damage to sea-life in the event of a catastrophe.

In parallel, Jordanians and Israelis are mapping out flora and fauna areas needing particular attention if oil were spilled, Mr. Margolis said.

All the participants agreed upon the need to develop a code of conduct to be adhered to by all the countries bordering the Red Sea, the development of a system to monitor to assess the condition of coral reefs and the pooling of resources to lessen the burden placed on the infrastructure, industries and tourism facilities located on the Red Sea.

Pest problem in Syria, Lebanon is no threat to Jordan — ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture Wednesday moved to allay any fears about the imminent invasion of locusts in Jordan following recent reports about the appearance of the pests in areas along the Syrian-Lebanese borders.

The director of the ministry's department responsible for the protection of farmlands and plants, Mazen Khasawneh, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the pests were large grasshoppers which sometimes appear in the Arab areas depending on weather conditions.

He said the Lebanese and the Syrian authorities have already launched a wide scale offensive against the pests. These grasshoppers do not

Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness
Princess Rania Al-Abdullah
KAN ZAMAN proudly presents
"KHAZAFIYAT"
hand painted tiles, Nabatean pottery
ceramic table ware, Islamic pottery, mosaics
by
Queen Alia Fund, Bawadi
Kevork Khoulmounian, Kan Zaman
Rula Atallah, Silsal
Elias Salameh
Garo Sandrouni
Athar Znbaidy, Kan Zaman
Date: Thursday, April 13th - Sunday April 16th
Hrs: Thursday, 6-11 pm
Fri., Sat., Sun., 8 am - 11 pm
5% of all proceeds go to a local charity

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "Godzilla 1985" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Film entitled "Terranova" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
- ★ Film entitled "Caravaggio and the Baroque" (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Darat Al Funun on Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

Non-Aligned nations put brakes on 5 major nuclear powers

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Non-Aligned nations said they have no intention of giving the five major nuclear powers a blank check when the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) comes up for renewal later this month.

Six days ahead of the April 17-May 12 conference by the NPT's 175 signatories, more than 100 developing countries said nuclear powers Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States must take additional steps towards nuclear disarmament before non-nuclear nations could vote to extend the treaty indefinitely.

The comments followed Tuesday's passage in the U.N. Security Council of a resolution sponsored by the "big five" pledging help for states that do not have nuclear arms if they are faced with aggression from nuclear forces.

Just before the vote, the non-aligned movement managed to have an additional

paragraph included in the resolution urging all states "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control which remains a universal goal."

The resolution adopted unanimously by the 15-member Council calls on the U.N. decision-making body to "take urgent action to provide assistance" to any state victim of or threatened by aggression.

The resolution spoke of an investigation into the situation and "appropriate measures to settle the dispute and restore international peace and security."

It did not offer, however, a guarantee of international military mobilisation to aid the victim state. The only measures offered were "technical, medical, scientific or humanitarian assistance."

Members of the Non-Aligned nations, among them

Egypt, Indonesia, Iran and Nigeria, voiced strong reservations about the resolution, denouncing it as superficial and noting it was not legally binding.

They demanded a signed, "legally binding" international treaty to give more credibility to the guarantees offered by the five major nuclear powers.

"We regret that the draft has failed to acknowledge the right of the non-nuclear weapons states for unconditional security assurances in an international convention," Nugroho Wisnumurti of Indonesia said prior to the vote. Indonesia currently chairs the Non-Aligned Movement and Mr. Wisnumurti said he was speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned countries.

"It is against this backdrop that the Non-Aligned countries, parties to the NPT, have doubts concerning the purported significance of security assurances in the form of the resolution."

"We therefore believe that more far-reaching action will

be needed to ensure the security of all nations," Mr. Wisnumurti added.

Nabil Al Araby of Egypt denounced the "rush" of the big five to adopt the resolution and said there was "wide scepticism" on its contents among non-aligned and non-nuclear nations.

"As it stands, this resolution is regrettably insufficient in both form and substance," Mr. Al Araby said.

He called for "effective and collective measures" to be taken in case of aggression or threat of aggression, adding that the resolution will not "alleviate the fears" of smaller countries.

Meanwhile, Egypt Tuesday gave indications that it was weakening in its resolve to oppose any extension of the NPT unless Israel, a regional nuclear power, signs on the treaty.

Ussama Al Baz, political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, suggested that the treaty could be renewed with a provision that it be reviewed every five years.

Former Indian premier cremated

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Former Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai, who died Monday at the age of 99, was cremated Wednesday on the banks of a holy Hindu river in his western home state of Gujarat.

His son, Kanti Desai, lit the pyre on a specially-erected brick platform near the Sabarmati River in the city of Ahmedabad as thousands of mourners watched solemnly, the Press Trust of India reported.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, his cabinet colleagues and opposition leaders were present at the funeral, where soldiers fired shots in the air in tribute to one of the leaders of India's struggle for independence from Britain.

Desai, who was prime minister of the country's first non-Congress Party government for two years from 1977-79, died at a Bombay hospital Monday, two weeks after undergoing surgery to

remove blood clots from his brain.

The government declared seven days of nationwide mourning, while Mr. Rao called the highly-respected Desai an "illustrious son" of the nation.

Tens of thousands of people lined the streets of Ahmedabad throwing flowers and garlands as Desai's body was taken to the cremation site on an army truck, accompanied by family members and officials.

Russians inflict heavy losses on Tajik rebels

DUSHANBE (R) — Russian Border Guards in Tajikistan inflicted heavy losses overnight on Islamic fighters from the republic's rebellious eastern province of Gorno-Badakhshan, a spokesman said Wednesday.

Six days of fighting between Russian-led guards and Islamic rebels crossing into Tajikistan from neighbouring Afghanistan have killed 33 Border Guards and wounded 73. ITAR-TASS news agency said.

The battle are clear evidence that Moscow, embroiled in fighting in Chechnya, risks becoming bogged down in another complex ethnic war on the southern borders of the former Soviet Union.

A Border Guards spokesman said local militia in the mountainous region of Gorno-Badakhshan, which is seeking greater autonomy from Dushanbe, had tried to storm a Russian-manned border post late at night.

"The attack has been repulsed and the rebels suffered huge losses," the spokesman said.

Russian helicopters, gunships attacked groups of rebels in the region Wednesday morning, he added, but gave no details.

Russians accuse the inhabitants of Gorno-Badakhshan, which remains effectively outside the control of the Tajik government, of backing the Afghan-based Islamic fighters.

The latest week of fighting threatens to wreck a ceasefire agreed last year between the government and the rebels, who fled to Afghanistan after losing a 1992 civil war.

Of the 33 dead, 17 were from Kazakhstan, three from Russia and the rest from Tajikistan. A Border Guards spokesman in Moscow said a total of 170 Islamic and Gorno-Badakhshan fighters had been killed.

Tajikistan, which borders Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and China, is the poorest and most unstable former Soviet republic.



U.S. President Bill Clinton meets with Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C. (AFP photo)

Bhutto wins key pledges from Clinton

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto won two key pledges from President Bill Clinton to resolve a pending sale of jet fighters and to mediate in the volatile Kashmir conflict, as she winds down her 10-day visit to the United States.

At a joint White House conference following their meeting Tuesday, Mr. Clinton said he would "ask Congress to show some flexibility in the Pressler Amendment" to allow Pakistan to get either its 28 F-16 fighter jets or its money back.

Under the 1990 law, the United States is prohibited from assisting Pakistan until the president can certify that it is not pursuing a nuclear programme.

Pakistan paid \$658 million for the fighter jets, though Ms. Bhutto said other embargoed equipment and warfare aircraft pushed the total figure up to \$1.4 billion.

"Under the law, as it now exists, we can not release the equipment," Mr. Clinton said. "I don't think it's right for us to keep the money and the equipment. It's not right and I am going to try and find a solution to it."

Despite Mr. Clinton's pledge, White House aides conceded it would be an uphill battle in Congress to allow the delivery of the F-16 jets.

"They're not going to get money or planes, anytime

soon," said White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry.

Under questioning from reporters, Mr. Clinton insisted that seeking some kind of modification of the Pressler Amendment did not mean he was weakening his stand of extending the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which comes up for renewal later this month.

Mr. Clinton said that he does not favour making an exception for anyone under the law, but the impact of the amendment is directed only against Pakistan, which has pledged not to engage in a regional nuclear arms race.

South Dakota Senator Larry Pressler said he has no intention of modifying his measure, saying it was "the only nuclear non-proliferation policy with teeth."

"I find it simply preposterous any proposal that we would transfer even one F-16 to Pakistan without first securing the nation's compliance with the amendment and its signature on the NPT," Sen. Pressler said.

Ms. Bhutto, who has asked that the United States either deliver the equipment or return Pakistan's money, said she was "encouraged by the discussions with the president... and the understanding that he has shown for Pakistan's position."

"I welcome the Clinton administration's decision to

work with Congress to revise the Pressler Amendment," she said.

A senior administration official said one option under consideration was to sell the airplanes to a third nation and then turn the money over to Pakistan. The official said Thailand has expressed an interest in F-16s in the past.

Meanwhile, Chelsea Clinton apparently made quite an impression during her recent visit to South Asia.

Ms. Bhutto brought up the 15-year-old's knowledge of Islam when the prime minister met with President Clinton Tuesday at the White House.

"We found Chelsea very knowledgeable on Islamic issues," Ms. Bhutto said during a news conference. "I'm delighted to learn from the president that Chelsea is studying Islamic history and has also read our holy book, the Koran."

During an Oval Office photo session earlier in the day, Mr. Clinton told Ms. Bhutto that Chelsea was "a deeply religious child" and that she attends school with many Muslims.

Chelsea accompanied her mother on a 12-day tour of the Indian subcontinent that began last month in Pakistan. In Islamabad they toured a mosque where Chelsea asked detailed questions about the tenets of Islam. She carried her own copy of the Koran with her on the trip.

China offers \$60,000 for live Yeti

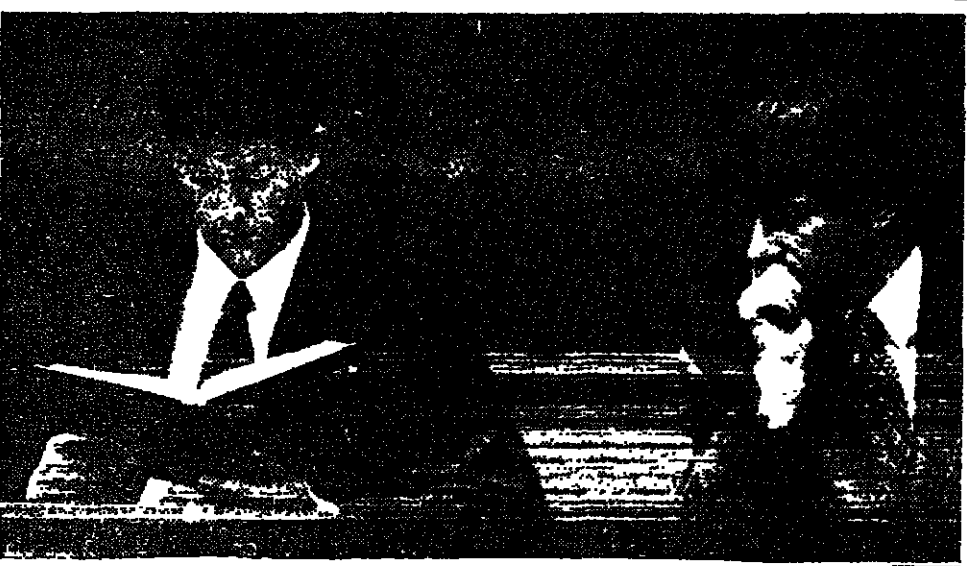
BEIJING (AFP) — China is offering rewards of up to 500,000 yuan (\$60,000) to anyone who can show concrete evidence that the legendary abominable snowman exists, a report seen here Tuesday said. The official China Travel Service (CTS) announced the scheme at a meeting in central Hubei province's Shennongjia Mountainous region, where several sightings have been reported of the so-called "Wild-Man," the Weekly Digest newspaper said. The Shennongjia CTS branch is to provide cooking utensils, oil and grain to any Chinese or foreign tourists setting off in search of the tall, hairy beast. A top prize of 500,000 yuan awaits those who bring one in alive, the report said. A dead specimen will earn the captor 50,000 yuan, while hunters who obtain photos or video recordings of a Wild Man will receive 30,000 to 40,000 yuan and those finding hair or faeces 10,000 yuan, it said. The offer comes days after a Chinese scientific expedition began a new search for the Wild Man, with team leader Yuan Zhengxin expressing confidence that one would be captured within three years. But, in a report in the China Daily Tuesday, Zhou Guoxing, a senior scientist at the Beijing Museum of Natural History, threw cold water on such hopes, saying he doubted that primitive wild men could have survived into the modern age.

Bolshoi takes dancers to court

MOSCOW (AP) — The Bolshoi's administration took 14 performers to court, accusing them of staging an illegal strike that caused a ballet to be cancelled for the first time in the theatre's 219-year history. The dancers and musicians appeared on the world-famous stage on March 10 wearing street clothes instead of Romeo And Juliet costumes. They told the flabbergasted audience they were too upset over the resignation of ballet master Yuri Grigorovich to perform. If Judge Valentina Yemysheva of the Moscow City Court, who is trying the case, rules that the strike was indeed illegal, the performers — including several stars like prima ballerina Natalia Bessmertnova, Grigorovich's wife — might technically be fired. In their opening statements, attorneys for the dancers said they intended to prove that the protest was a spontaneous outburst of artistic temperaments caused by "a negative moral atmosphere" created by the administration, but not a strike. "There is a defence in such cases, if employees refuse to work due to a lack of proper working conditions," said one attorney. Lev Abeldayev, Bolshoi lawyer Irina Ilyina said she would bring evidence showing the strike had been planned well in advance, and that there had been two earlier attempts to disrupt performances. She said the administration would not give up the suit "because never before had Bolshoi's own performers done such damage to the theatre." The trial, which is likely to last several days, could become the end of a months-long feud between Grigorovich and Bolshoi's former general director Viktor Kokonin.

Researchers breed pigs with human blood type

TOKYO (R) — A pig with both human and swine blood types has been bred by a Japanese research team, possibly paving the way for pig organs to be transplanted to humans. Kyodo News Agency Wednesday quoted medical researchers at Nagoya University in central Japan as saying they put genes for an enzyme which makes human blood into fertilised pig ova, resulting in offspring, whose blood included a human type. The doctored eggs were transferred to the wombs of 19 sows. Of 27 piglets born to three of the sows, one had both pig and human blood types, the researchers said. The similarity of pig and human organ weights has led researchers to explore the animal's potential as a donor. However, an incompatible antigen in swine blood meant any attempt to use pig organs in a human would end in rejection. The researchers added that pressure from animal welfare groups over transplant research involving chimpanzees, baboons and other primates had also spurred interest in pigs.



Los Angeles police criminalist Dennis Fung (left) is questioned by defence attorney Barry Scheck about information on how to collect DNA evidence out of a book called Criminalistics, during the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles. Mr. Fung was the senior evidence technician at the crime scene on the night of the murder (AFP photo)

Simpson defence: Prosecutors target jurors

LOS ANGELES (R) — O.J. Simpson's defence team has accused prosecutors in the American football hero's double murder trial of targeting jurors for dismissal and asked for a special hearing on the matter.

In a written motion, the defence said prosecutors had looked closely at jurors who might be favourably disposed toward Simpson, then tried to "engineer the court's declaration of a mistrial."

While the behind-the-scenes drama unfolded, defence attorney Barry Scheck continued a relentless cross-examination of criminalist Dennis Fung, the crime expert, responsible for the collection of evidence in the murders of Simpson's ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Mr. Scheck homed in on Fung's search of Simpson's white Ford Bronco, suggesting that blood samples taken by the criminalist on June 14 "reappeared" Aug. 26 when

he again examined the vehicle.

The defence attorney also questioned Mr. Fung closely about a pair of white socks found in Simpson's master bedroom, eliciting from the criminalist that he saw no blood on the socks.

Prosecutors say blood was subsequently discovered on the socks during a laboratory analysis and Simpson's defence has obliquely suggested that a blood sample given by Simpson may have been used to "taint" the evidence.

The former star running back who became a well-known sportscaster, actor and TV pitchman has pleaded not guilty in the stabbing deaths of his ex-wife and Goldman.

The prosecution claims Simpson drove from his Brentwood estate to Nicole Simpson's townhouse on the night of June 12 last year and killed the pair, before driving home in time to take a limousine to the airport.

In their motion to Judge Lance Ito, defence attorneys also accused the judge of an "abuse of discretion" in dismissing juror Jeannette Harris without conducting a hearing with the defence present — an action they called a violation of Simpson's rights under the constitution.

After her dismissal last week Harris said the prosecution was "spinning its wheels" and hadn't shown her anything to convince her that Simpson had killed his ex-wife and her friend, charges that Simpson has denied.

The defence also asked that, should the number in the jury panel drop below 12, the charges against Simpson be dropped with no possibility of retrial.

Simpson's lawyers claimed that prosecutors have come to "distrust" the current mix of jurors and alternates and hope to obtain a mistrial by causing their number to drop below 12.

Mandela reinstates wife as deputy minister

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — President Nelson Mandela reinstated his estranged wife, Winnie, as a deputy cabinet minister Wednesday, in what may be a prelude to firing her again.

Mrs. Mandela was sacked from her post as deputy minister of arts, culture, science and technology on March 27 after a series of controversies. She has contested her dismissal in court.

Following daylong talks between lawyers for the two Mandelas, the president's office issued a statement explaining that Mrs. Mandela's dismissal was "technically and procedurally invalid."

The president, upon his return, will consider her position as deputy minister afresh, the statement said. Government sources cited earlier by South African Press Association reported

that Mrs. Mandela's successor, Brigitte Mabandla, had been approached by the president's office to see if she would be prepared to "step down for a few hours."

The reinstatement appeared to be an attempt to fire Mrs. Mandela in accordance with the constitution, which stipulates that all cabinet members must be notified in advance of a sacking.

Zulu nationalist leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, whose Inkatha Freedom Party is the biggest black rival to Mr. Mandela's African National Congress, contends he was not consulted.

Reinstating Mrs. Mandela would permit the president to fire her again without loose strings and avoid a long, costly legal battle.

Mrs. Mandela filed court papers this week claiming

that her dismissal was unfair and demanding to know the reasons for it. The reinstatement is seen as a victory for her, even if temporary.

Mr. Mandela was to return Thursday from a trip to the Gulf states.

The president relieved his spouse of her duties last month after a string of embarrassing controversies, the worst to plague his government since last year's historic all-race elections that ended white minority rule.

They included her public criticism of the pace of the government's social reform, dividing the ANC Women's League she heads, making an unauthorised trip abroad, and allegations by police that she took bribes and peddled her influence.

Mr. Mandela gave no reasons for the dismissal, but his allies said that Mrs. Man-

dela had proven divisive in the national unity government and was unable to make the transition from protest politics to running a country.

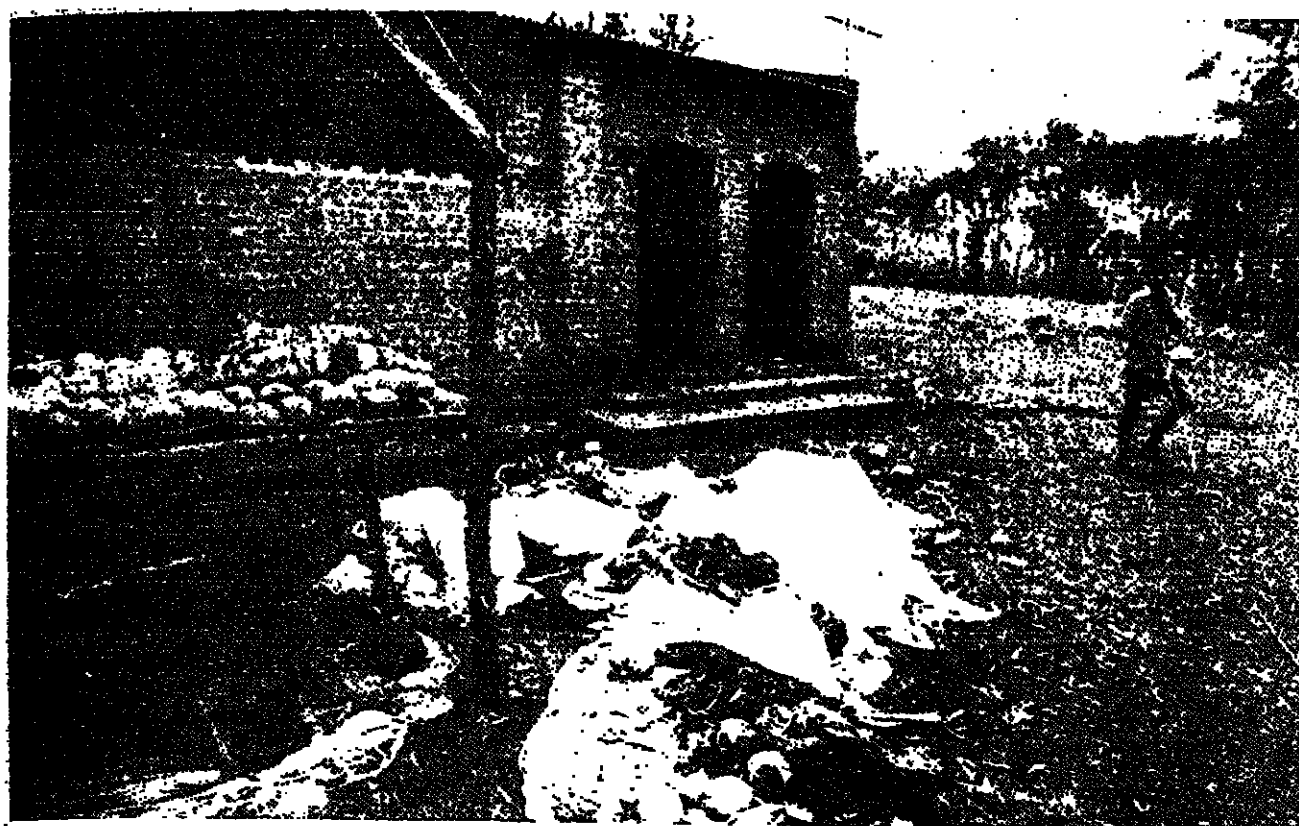
But Mrs. Mandela, popular among poor blacks due to her militant calls for rapid redistribution of the wealth in post-apartheid South Africa, has refused to go quietly.

She has exhibited the same defiance toward Mr. Mandela's government as she did toward the white minority regime when he was imprisoned for 27 years, suffering constant harassment as a result.

The couple separated in 1992 for unspecified reasons, a year after Mrs. Mandela was convicted of kidnapping in the abduction of four youths by her bodyguards. One of the victims was later found dead. She avoided prison but paid a fine.

China offers \$60,000 for live Yeti

BEIJING (AFP) — A Chinese official said on Wednesday that the government has offered a reward of 60,000 yuan (about \$10,000) for anyone who can provide reliable information about the whereabouts of a Yeti, a mythical creature said to live in the Himalayas.



Human remains from massacres in 1994 lie near the church in Nyamata, 80 km south of Kigali, Rwanda said that it was preventing U.N. agencies taking food to almost a million mainly

Hutu refugees in neighbouring Zaire because such a move was "immoral" and in protest against bloody incursions launched from the camps (AFP photo)

U.N.: Rwandan refugees massacred in Zaire camp

GENEVA (Agencies) — Gunmen massacred 26 Rwandan Hutu refugees at the Birava Camp in east Zaire, killed two Zaireans and wounded 55 other people overnight, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees announced Wednesday.

UNHCR spokesman Fernando Del Mundo said the attackers killed two Zaireans and wounded five others on the Invinja Island in Lake Kivu before going on to the nearby camp and killing the refugees, injuring 50 others.

The violence was the most serious incident in the camps since last October. Del Mundo said. Almost a million Rwandans from the Hutu majority have been exiled in Zairean refugee camps since last year's genocidal civil war.

Some experts in the region would not rule out the possibility that the attack was a reprisal by Rwandan forces for bloody raids inside Rwanda, which the Tutsi-dominated government blames on Hutu extremists coming from the camps.

The group of gunmen, whom the UNHCR was unable to identify, landed on the island in the middle of the lake at 10:20 p.m. (2130 GMT), aboard three barges and a rubber boat. They opened fire on a group of Zaireans, killing two and wounding five others.

About half an hour later, they surrounded the Birava Camp, home to about 9,000 Hutus, and began shooting with automatic weapons and threw two hand grenades. Women and children were among the 26 dead and 50 people were injured.

"We have no details on the people who staged the attack and we do not know if they were wearing uniforms," Mr. Del Mundo said.

The wounded were evacuated Wednesday to field hospitals and to Bukavu, one of the two Zairean towns at the hub of relief operations for the Rwandan refugees.

Local authorities have opened an enquiry into the attack and the UNHCR has informed the Zairean government in Kinshasa, Mr. Del Mundo said.

The assault came as the Rwandan government maintained a blockade it decided to impose last week to prevent U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) lorries from taking supplies to the refugees in Zaire.

Mr. Del Mundo said the border remained closed Wednesday and added that talks between U.N. officials and the Kigali authorities were continuing.

The government, dominated by the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) that seized power in Kigali last July, has justified the blockade on security grounds, because of the attacks inside Rwanda by alleged Hutu extremists from the camps.

Since the beginning of this year, the Kigali authorities have put up increasing opposition to the sending of food aid to the refugee camps in the Goma and Bukavu regions in Zaire, north and south of Lake Kivu, the UNHCR and WFP have charged.

The U.N. agencies have strongly protested against the blockade, pointing out that food stocks are running short and that rations to the refugees, which aid workers have tried to keep to the basic minimum 1,800 calories a day, have been reduced by half in recent weeks.

More than ten thousand Rwandans have taken to the streets here to press the United Nations to leave their country and protest its stance during the civil war last year, national radio reported Wednesday.

The demonstration took place in the capital Kigali Tuesday.

"We have to make a bitter observation, that UNAMIR (the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda) is useless to this country," one demonstrator said. Another added: "We want it to leave."

Election frustration triggers new labour unrest in France

PARIS (R) — Workers frustrated by wage freezes, high unemployment and broken political promises hit France with a new wave of labour unrest Wednesday and vowed more in the two weeks before the presidential election.

Responding to earlier protests and strikes, candidates for the French presidency have scrambled to outdo each other with pledges to create jobs and raise wages.

But union leaders, seeking to take advantage of the election campaign, pressed for specific actions over words.

"In this campaign, the candidates are saying whatever they want so long as they can seduce a few voters," said Nicole Notat, head of France's largest union, the pro-socialist CFTD.

"At the post office, at (state-owned domestic airline) Air Inter, these strikes demonstrate the unhappiness and anguish of salaries workers worried about the future of public services," Ms. Notat told the French daily Liberation.

The most recent voter surveys show conservative Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac holding onto and even strengthening his lead over Socialist Lionel Jospin and fellow conservative Edouard Balladur in the final days ahead of the first-round ballot.

The polls showed Mr. Balladur in third place behind Mr. Jospin, pointing to a Chirac-Jospin run-off in the May 7 final ballot, held in the event no one wins a majority on April 23.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, a Balladur supporter, dismissed the poll findings, noting that over a third of voters said they still might change their mind.

The prospects of a fratricidal Chirac-Balladur run-off confrontation dismays many on the right as both men are from the neo-Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR). But Mr. Pasqua, also an RPR member, said this could not be ruled out.

"I have the feeling that that's what the people want," he told Reuters. "They want to see this. We'll soon see. Above all, it must not degenerate into a battle between fishwives."

Analysts see the strikes as most damaging to Mr. Balladur, who has become the



French Prime Minister and presidential candidate Edouard Balladur adjusts his helmet before descending into a coal mine in Freyming Merlebach, eastern France, during a campaign stop (AFP photo)

primary focus of worker anger as France's prime minister for the past two years.

The unrest has given Mr. Chirac the opportunity to reaffirm his popular message that pay rises are not the enemy of jobs.

However, Mr. Balladur defended his stance in favour of creating jobs and cutting state deficits over across-the-board public sector pay hikes. He advocates only selective pay rises, negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

"I find it understandable that economic growth has returned and that people want to share in this, but if we destroy the growth there will be nothing to share," he told France-2 television.

"The workers feel that more is possible, and I understand this, but I must warn them against being unreasonable, which could lead to disappointment and disillusionment," he said.

Among Wednesday's labour targets were Michelin, the tyre-maker, which was hit by protests at several plants after reporting a return to profitability Tuesday, and the oil giant ELF Aquitaine, which has announced plans to let go 300 workers and shut down unprofitable petrol stations.

Worse disruption was expected Thursday when Paris public transport workers will strike on the Metro, suburban train and bus services and France Telecom public telephone employees stage a one-day strike for higher pay and against layoffs.

Banks and post offices were also expected to be hard-hit.

Russians fight on in Chechnya despite U.S. worries

MOSCOW (R) — Russia Wednesday said it would press on with crushing rebel resistance in Chechnya despite mounting criticism from the United States, which is worried the conflict could wreck a summit in Moscow next month.

Government spokesman Nikolai Pronin said Kremlin troops, which have taken most Chechen bastions after four months of fighting, now planned to turn their attention to the western town of Bamut, which is still in rebel hands.

"The main military operations are behind us. Of course, Bamut is still standing. But Russian forces will cleanse it (of fighters) rather than seize it," he said by telephone.

In the past, the Russians have had little success in persuading rebels to leave their

strongholds and it seemed likely an assault would have to be mounted against the town.

The bloodshed and destruction in the rebel region has prompted concern in the west. Washington Tuesday expressed new alarm over the campaign after high-level talks in Moscow failed to allay U.S. concerns about the war.

"This conflict is having a corrosive effect on the development of Russian democratic institutions and Russian democracy, and it's having a negative effect on U.S.-Russian relations," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

A senior U.S. official called the campaign to wipe out Chechen separatist forces a "major miscalculation."

But Russia has shrugged off criticism of the war and there seemed no reason to suggest it would take notice of Washington's latest complaint, especially since the International Monetary Fund approved a \$6.8 billion loan to help revive the economy.

U.S. officials have opposed cutting aid to Russia, arguing that it is in their interest to strengthen democracy and free markets, despite differences over Chechnya which could mar a May summit between presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton.

The lower house of Russia's parliament, which in the past has been critical of the war, passed a resolution Wednesday which would ban the use of the armed forces in Chechnya. The motion went to the upper house for more discussion and a vote.

The motion ordered the government to start talks on a ceasefire with Chechen rebel commanders. But constitutionally the government can ignore the parliamentary initiative.

Kremlin troops, who have all but eliminated resistance in the Chechen lowlands, Tuesday shelled rebel positions in the west of the Caucasian republic near Bamut and Achkhoy-Martan.

Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev Tuesday accused Moscow's troops of using "unprecedented cruelty" against civilians, and Washington echoed concern voiced by Russian human rights workers and refugees from the fighting.

"We're also disturbed by reports — which we have not been able to substantiate — of alleged Russian atrocities against Chechen civilians (and of) reports that fighting continues near the Chechen border with Ingushetia," Mr. Burns said.

Canada, EU fail to end fish dispute

BRUSSELS (R) — EU ambassadors failed Wednesday to ease their bitter fish dispute with Canada, insisting that any deal must be multilateral and should include compensation for the seizure of a Spanish trawler.

Ambassadors sidestepped any mention of how to share out North Atlantic catch quotas for Greenland halibut, the species at the heart of the row, switching attention to the areas where the European Union speaks as one.

There was an update from the (European) Commission on their continuing contacts with the Canadians. This did not cover the issue of the (quota) share out," a British official told reporters.

He said the key questions for the 15-country bloc were compensation for Canada's seizure of the trawler Estai, which was arrested in international waters off Newfoundland in early March, and the mechanics of extending any EU/Canada deal to the other countries which fish the area.

"What happens about the compensation for the Estai trawler that was arrested? What happens if the bilateral deal cannot be stood up on a multilateral stage?" the official said.

Attention now switches to how Canada will react, given that Canadian Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin said Monday that it could take unspecified action if there was no agreement by today.

"We will be meeting with the EU this afternoon," Canadian External Affairs Department spokeswoman Jennifer Sloan told Reuters after the ambassadors' talks ended.

"We have not been informed of any official results from the EU meeting this morning," she said.

An EU official said representatives of the European Commission and the French EU presidency spoke to the Spanish and Portuguese ambassadors ahead of the full meeting of ambassadors.

The EU is seeking to thrash out a position which will satisfy Spain, where the fishing industry fears thousands of jobs will be lost if their trawlers' catches are drastically curbed. Spain catches 80 per cent of the EU quota of Greenland halibut and Portugal the rest.

Canada says stocks are at dire risk from overfishing. Madrid wants the EU to have 13,500 tonnes of the 1995 quota for the disputed area — half the entire permitted catch.

Autopsy talks start in bid to end Manila-Singapore hanging row

MANILA (AFP) — The Philippines and Singapore launched a new effort Wednesday to end their dispute over the hanging of a Filipino maid convicted of murder in the strict law-and-order island state.

Officials said the two countries were negotiating how to organise a new autopsy on the body of the woman that Flor Contemplacion was found guilty of murdering.

The talks appeared to be the first breakthrough in the crisis since Contemplacion was hanged on March 17.

Singapore has insisted that the 42-year-old mother of four confessed to the 1991 killing of another Filipino maid, Della Maga, and her four-year-old Singaporean charge, Nicholas Huang.

But many Filipinos believe Contemplacion was framed and the dispute has come close to leading to a break-up in diplomatic relations between the two allies in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo told reporters he contacted his Singapore counterpart Shanmugam Jayakumar by telephone after similar discussions between President Fidel Ramos and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong in which they agreed on a new autopsy.

Findings by Filipino experts that Maga was bludgeoned to death, probably by a man, contradicted a Singapore pathologists' report that she was strangled. The corner's report was a key element of evidence used to convict Contemplacion of murder.

Singapore at first rejected the Philippines' findings as "absurd."

But the Singapore Foreign Ministry, while silent on the autopsy, said Tuesday that Mr. Ramos and Mr. Goh

agreed that the two should "try to maintain their bilateral relations on an even keel."

He (Shanmugam Jayakumar) and I agreed to talk today to work out the procedures needed to get the forensic dialogue started," Mr. Romulo said. "It's going to be a step-by-step negotiation between the two of us."

He said the two countries will have to agree on the venue, the experts to be chosen, and the kind of equipment that would be needed.

Should Singapore agree to send experts here, Manila will provide them "adequate protection and the appropriate hospitality," he added.

But Mr. Romulo stressed the agreement on the joint autopsy did not necessarily mean diplomatic ties were on the mend. "What you can say is that we are trying to find a way to get us out of this 'rough patch,'" he added.

Gunmen oust nationalists from Belarus assembly

MINSK (R) — Scores of gunmen burst into the Belarusian parliament before dawn Wednesday and evicted nationalists staging a hunger strike to denounce President Alexander Lukashenko.

Mr. Lukashenko had earlier threatened to dissolve the assembly if it blocked a referendum to grant him more power.

The showdown left the assembly chamber empty and locked, in the latest constitutional clash in the former Soviet Union.

Deputies told journalists the 18-member protest group had been manhandled by armed special forces who rushed them out of the building just before 3 a.m.

By midday the parliament remained shut as senior deputies met in an adjoining annex to determine their next step in a long battle with Mr. Lukashenko over constitutional powers. A full session was scheduled later in the day.

Valentin Golubets of the Belarusian Popular Front aid up to 100 men, armed

with submachine guns or wearing black masks, entered the chamber and pushed the deputies into the street.

"They pushed us along a line of men and hit us with their truncheons," he said.

"When we told them about parliamentary immunity, they hit us even harder. This is the establishment of a totalitarian, fascist state. We may never see our parliament open again."

Deputies launched the hunger strike Tuesday during a debate culminating in parliament rejecting three of four questions in a referendum sought by the president on May 14, the same day as general elections.

One of the rejected proposals called for strengthened presidential powers in the country of 10 million sandwiched between Russia, Ukraine and Poland.

One member, Alexander Shut, showed reporters a large bruise on his back. Several members suggested the forces who evicted them were Russians, judging from their accents.

Belarusian radio and television, heavily controlled by the government, reported nothing of the overnight incident.

Belarusians, hit by economic adversity even more than their Russian and Ukrainian neighbours, went about their business as normal and the city centre was calm.

Mr. Lukashenko stormed out of the chamber Tuesday after a disjointed address laced with criticism of attempts by Western institutions to speed up Belarusian reforms and exhortations to join together with their Slav neighbours.

He has threatened to dissolve the parliament unless deputies agree to his proposals on referendums.

Mr. Lukashenko's dispute with parliament is typical of constitutional rows in many former Soviet republics.

It was Russian President Boris Yeltsin's dissolution of a hardline parliament which led to the October 1993 confrontation in the streets of Moscow in which Mr. Yeltsin used tankfire to pound his

opponents into submission.

The president of Kazakhstan, dissolved his parliament last month. Disputes also persist between president and parliament in Ukraine, where deputies Wednesday were debating a law on constitutional rights.

"This referendum will take place no matter how you vote," Mr. Lukashenko told deputies Tuesday.

"I will make no further concessions. You have until the end of the week to correct this. If parliament violates the constitution, I will suspend its activity."

Deputies agreed to hold a referendum on the single issue of approving close ties with Russia. They threw out three other questions, including one enabling Mr. Lukashenko expressly to dissolve parliament.

Others would move Belarus closer to its Soviet past — establishing Russian as a state language alongside rarely-used Belarusian, and introducing Soviet-like state symbols.

Japan police arrest key sect member

TOKYO (AFP) — Another senior member of the Aum Shinri Kyo cult was arrested Wednesday as police appeared closer to cracking the top leadership of the sect suspected in the deadly nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway.

Tomomitsu Niimi, 31, a right-hand man of the sect's dominant guru, Shoko Asahara, was arrested on a central Tokyo street for allegedly detaining a sect member, a police spokesman said. The case involves the alleged kidnapping of a 29-year-old woman after she tried to escape the sect last year, television reports said.

But the real purpose of Mr. Niimi's arrest, as with many of the other 100 sect members apprehended so far, is believed to be in connection with the March 20 gas attack that killed 11 subway commuters and injured 5,500 others.

Since the start of the massive investigation of Aum Shinri Kyo, or the Supreme Truth sect on March 22, police have discovered huge amounts of chemicals, including ingredients to make the nerve gas sarin at the sect commune in central Japan.

But cult spokesmen have repeatedly denied responsibility, saying the chemicals were for a "self-sufficient life" and for "preparation to survive a final war" predicted by Asahara in 1997.

Mr. Niimi, the head of the sect's so-called "home affairs ministry," suspected of underground activities including kidnapping, is the third Supreme Truth "minister" arrested in the past week and considered the most important so far.

Shoko Egawa, a journalist who has followed the cult for the past five years, said his arrest represented "a major blow to the sect's organisation."

"Now that a top-ranking official has been arrested on serious charges, it will greatly disrupt them," Mr. Egawa said in a television interview.

Police have mounted an all-out campaign to detain sect members, using all possible legal means. Some members were arrested for minor offenses like traffic violations, trespassing and using false names.

"This is an extremely special case. I know of no other case in which police acted this way," said criminology Professor Hiroaki Iwai.

He was police officials were "putting their careers at stake" and may "be criticised for human rights violations" in their desperate attempt to solve this unprecedented case.

"Police can't just arrest Asahara (the sect leader). Even if they get him now, he wouldn't confess anything. Then he will be free after a 23-day detention period," Prof. Iwai said, noting that police are now trying to build up evidence on which to question the 40-year-old guru by arresting his followers.

"I believe police know the whereabouts of Asahara," he added.

Analysts also say that police are arresting Aum members as a tactic to slowly paralyse the radical sect and cause its eventual disintegration.

In another indication that the raids on the sect had

reached a crucial stage, senior police investigators across Japan held an "emergency meeting" here Wednesday to exchange information regarding their probe into the sect.

In Moscow, President Boris Yeltsin Wednesday ordered state investigators to look into the activities in Russia of the Japanese doomsday sect suspected of a nerve gas attack which killed 11 people in Tokyo and injured more than 5,500, his press service said.

Mr. Yeltsin commissioned the prosecutor general, the Federal Security Services (FSB) and the governmental commission on religious questions to investigate "all instances of activity of the Aum Supreme Truth on Russian territory," the press service said in a statement.

These investigations will be carried out in collaboration with Japanese investigators, the statement said.

A former member of the sect testified Tuesday that Aum Supreme Truth had twice tested its nerve gas in Russia. ITAR-TASS news agency reported Wednesday.

The former member, only identified as Marina, said the toxic gas and other drugs were administered at the cult's Moscow chapter to help members "penetrate other worlds."

The woman was addressing a Moscow court which is considering accusations against the sect brought by the anti-sect organisation the Committee for Saving Youth from Totalitarian Sects, ITAR-TASS said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Beware the time bomb

PALESTINIAN LEADERS have accused Israel of fueling civil war among Palestinians in the wake of the discovery of an increasing number of Israeli-made weapons in the hands of Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants. This is a very serious charge that warrants a closer scrutiny. Israeli state television on Tuesday even aired an equally disturbing allegation that there is a coincidental Likud-Hamas connection to undermine the Israeli-Palestinian peace deal altogether in preparation for an alternative scenario for the West Bank in particular.

Of course, we have no absolute evidence to confirm these serious allegations. What is still undeniable, though, is the fact that extremists within the Palestinian ranks have Israeli-made guns and ammunition. Equally evident is the observation that the violence perpetrated by Palestinian militants seemingly opposed to the Oslo and Cairo accords is dangerously undermining these agreements as well as weakening the Rabin government. All forecasts in Israel tell of a clear victory for the Likud in the upcoming Israeli national elections unless the peace process is widened and deepened in the few months ahead. This makes Palestinian extremism unwittingly at least an ally of the Israeli hardliners.

Assuming the best by rejecting the Palestinian accusations as baseless or outrageous, there is still strong evidence that even the Labour-led government is igniting civil strife among the Palestinians by dragging its feet in an exaggerated way over the implementation of the peace accords. Many deadlines on the various stages of these agreements, including the important ones on holding Palestinian elections and Israeli withdrawal from urban areas from the West Bank have not been met. The increasing frustration of the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in its efforts to show hard evidence that peace agreements with Israel are working can only pull the rug from under its feet and weaken its resolve to exercise authority and control over the Palestinian people. When the lack of delivery of the funds pledged by the international community to the PNA is added to the woes of the Palestinians, there is no escape from the conclusion that several factors are already in place to fuel a fratricidal armed conflict between Palestinians, whether or not Israel is in fact party to the scheme. There is at least one thing that Prime Minister Rabin can do to prevent a catastrophe from occurring and that is to move in earnest to implement what has been painstakingly negotiated and agreed upon. The donor countries can also lend critical support by making good on their promises of financial and economic assistance. Otherwise, the climate in Gaza Strip as well as in the West Bank would remain a time bomb ready to explode at any time.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday hailed a government decision to hold municipal elections during the coming summer, describing the step as a clear manifestation of the country's democratic orientation. Though the experiment is novel, everyone hopes that the election of mayors and municipal council members would become a firm tradition and a rule from now, said the paper. This is not only a practice of democracy and people's rule, but also an opportunity for Jordanians to choose the best and most qualified persons to run their local councils and the affairs of their towns and villages, continued the daily. There is no doubt that the voters will hold their mayors and council members accountable for their performance and their actions, and will naturally decide whether to reelect them or choose other more qualified persons later on for the job, added the paper. Urging Jordanian citizens to register for voting in the coming municipal elections, the paper said that the election practice is an inherent part of the democratisation process.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour urged Iran and Iraq to mend fences and pool their efforts to thwart American hostile actions directed against the two countries. Mohammad Kawash said that the United States, which is intent on perpetuating the embargo on Iraq, despite the Arab country's compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions, was now turning its attention towards weakening Iran and imposing a kind of international siege on the Tehran regime. Washington now seems bidding for other nations' support to impose some kind of economic embargo on Iran, and is waiting for the right moment to implement its hostile and aggressive action on that country, continued the writer.

View from Academia

Pet responsibility, pet abuse and the authorities

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

EVERYONE most people in our society are extremely loving of pets and are generally kind to them, they are nonetheless often unwittingly abusive of them. There is a great deal of ignorance about dealing with pets and about caring for them on the part of people and a great deal of aloofness and neglect on the part of the authorities, especially with respect to stray pets whose number is alarmingly large.

People in our part of the world are generally fond of pets: cats, birds, and (to a lesser extent) dogs. Pets are almost everywhere, in the more and less privileged neighbourhoods, in towns and cities, in the rural areas, in the desert, etc. In the so-called popular areas, for example, cats exist in abundance; there is hardly a house in there which does not have one or two cats. The rich have pets, and the poor have pets; the young have them, and the old have them.

Fine. There is absolutely nothing wrong with having pets of any kind. On the contrary, there may be something wrong when and if a society does not have them. In our society, even though a lot of people may not talk much in public about their pets (as much, that is, as other peoples in other societies do), deep down they care a great deal about them and they express their feelings generously about them in private.

Two things, however, bother me about what we may call the pet situation in our part of the world. The first, as I have just prefaced, has to do with the ignorance of dealing with pets and of caring for them and with the abuse that results from such ignorance.

The decision to own pets is extremely arbitrary in most cases. There is more to the matter, in my opinion, than the "wish" or "desire" to have pets. Having pets, much like having children, is a big responsibility. Therefore, before

people decide to own one, they ought to ask themselves whether they are prepared and ready for the responsibility. Do they have the time to cater for the various needs of the animal they are about to own, and to care for it? Do they know what these needs are? Do they know what to do once they own the pet? Do they have an appropriate place for it?

In the early stages of owning a pet, pet owners are expected to spend a significant amount of time disciplining and training it. This is no easy matter, for a pet (like any other family member or member of society) has to be taught the shalts and shall-nots, so that life will be convenient and pleasant for the pet itself, for the family members and for the neighbours. A pet also must not be fed just anything. For instance, pets are not supposed to be fed raw meat, they must not be fed contaminated food, and they must be cared for hygienically. They are to be given certain shots routinely and taken to the vet when they become sick. And so on and so forth.

Unfortunately, the condition of pets is extremely unsatisfactory, and unpleasant in our society. The vast majority of people, especially in the popular areas and the countryside (where the vast majority of pets is found), do not offer pets any training whatsoever, do not feed them properly and do not care much about their health. They are let loose to wander all over, they are fed raw meat and contaminated food (at times they are left to fend for themselves, and thus rummage garbage containers freely and pester the neighbours), they are not given any shots and are let to be sick and left to die (some suffer greatly before they die, of course).

Most pets live a miserable life in our part of the world, and most are a nuisance to people. Take a walk or a drive in

the so-called "popular" areas, and see for yourself the misery of cats, for example.

Which brings me to the second point: stray pets. Because the decision to own pets is arbitrary, because pets are largely untrained and undisciplined, because people abandon pets just as freely and carelessly as they obtain them, many of them end up being stray pets.

This is a serious problem. Our towns, our villages and the space in between are full of stray cats and dogs. The case of cats is obvious; that of dogs is less obvious. But stray dogs are there, in the towns and cities and in the space between. A friend who lives in the more privileged western Amman told me the other day that neither he nor any member of his family can take a walk next to his apartment building early in the morning or late at night — because of stray dogs, which are as ferocious as wolves. His apartment building lies at the edge of the neighbourhood. If this is the case in Amman, what is like in the less populated regions?

Clearly, people need to be educated about pets, for the knowledge of the majority is almost nil in this respect. And this is going to be a great effort, and it ought therefore to be shouldered by many institutions and establishments, not one or two. The media ought to be involved (the TV and the press), the schools, and the various governmental and non-governmental authorities concerned.

But the authorities need to do something about stray pets. It is not enough (neither is it acceptable or humane) for teams to go out randomly and shoot stray dogs. A more systematic, well-planned, humane and civilised method needs to be adopted and implemented. The experts in our society can, I am sure, tell us how to go about doing this to the best of everyone's satisfaction, the pets' and ours.

Close campaign throws spotlight on personality

When electing a head of state, they do things differently in France. Mary Dejevsky in Paris explores the issues and profiles the candidates in the arcane procedure that will produce the next president

WHEN THE French go to vote on April 23 in the first round of their presidential election, they will have a broad spread of candidates and opinion to choose from as any nation could hope for.

As well as the seven candidates detailed below, there will be Arlette Laguiller, the vivacious hardy perennial of the electoral scene, who is further left than the Communists, and perhaps also an Ecologist candidate distinct from the Greens, if Antoine Waechter can collect the 500 signatures he needs to stand.

Despite the breadth of choice, however, the signs are that French voters will opt for convention, or perhaps realism, and share their votes between centre-right and centre-left, with 10 per cent or so going to the National Front at one end of the spectrum and the communists at the other.

In part, this is a pity, because the fringe is where the characters are, along with the strong opinions and some of the most fervent debate. The candidates and their supporters can plead their causes without worrying too much about the exigencies of power in the late 20th century, the need to balance the budget, or the image of France.

Still, the real fight is for the two places in the second round on May 7, a fight between the three candidates at the centre: the Socialist, Lionel Jospin, and the two Gaullists —

Jacques Chirac, mayor of Paris and twice prime minister; and the current prime minister, Edouard Balladur. Forty per cent of voters are undecided. Which way will they swing? Even the most seasoned of pundits hesitates even to venture an answer.

While there are clearly identifiable issues, the policy differences between the three main candidates are often small, and shrinking further as the men try to adjust their policies to suit the voters — or what their polls tell them the voters want. Many voters, there, may cast their ballots according to their disposition towards the candidates personally.

The first issue that each candidate knows he must address is social policy, which includes, in rough order of concern: Unemployment, pay, social security and health. France has one of the highest unemployment rates in Europe — more than 12 per cent — and the three main candidates have pledged their best efforts to reduce it.

Mr. Balladur says he is already reducing it, and cites the slight but steady

fall over the past four months. Mr. Chirac has set out a combination of public works projects and incentives for employers to take on unemployed workers: Mr. Jospin wants shorter working hours, and public works to revive rundown urban areas.

The pressure to increase public sector pay has risen in recent weeks with strikes that culminated in a general transport strike last week. But none of the main candidates has condemned the strikes, called for further privatisation or suggested that "one man's pay rise is another man's job."

The second major area is "youth". Youth unemployment, which is declining more slowly than unemployment generally, and the widespread disaffection of young people from the political process. Judging by the participation on young people in the campaigns of all the candidates, French youth may be less disaffected than many assume, but the candidates are still making great efforts to court them.

This entails promising better education and training — but on no account

introducing selection for universities — and no reduction in the minimum wage for under-25s. Mr. Chirac seems to be doing better with the young than either of the other candidates, with his message that France "can and must change," but his success may owe as much to his dynamic image as to any specific policy.

The third area of concern is corruption in public life. Judgements are pending in a series of trials which affect officials and former officials associated with all three main candidates. Mr. Jospin could stand to gain the most from an anti-corruption vote, and Mr. Balladur — who was implicated in a phone-tapping scandal and had "transparency" problems over his assets and business dealings — the least.

But Mr. Balladur has taken the precaution of stating that, if elected, he will not grant an amnesty for convicted officials.

Fourth is foreign policy, and Europe in particular. This is not at present a subject of particular public concern — the anti-Maastricht contingent had

their say in a referendum and in last year's European elections — but it is a subject on which each of the main candidates must know how to speak. Foreign policy — unlike the details of domestic policy — is regarded as the prerogative of the president, and Mr. Chirac set the pace by devoting a special paper to foreign policy, in which Europe figured large.

All three main candidates are vying to present themselves as good Europeans; none contests France's position in Europe, though all acknowledge the large anti-Maastricht vote in France by pledging to force "glasnost" and "accountability" on the Brussels bureaucracy. Mr. Balladur's hint back in December that he was becoming more Eurosceptical and more critical of the Franco-German axis is not borne out in his campaign statements. If anything, he seems more unconditionally Europhile than Mr. Chirac, whose team includes an anti-Maastricht campaigner, Philippe Séguin.

Mr. Chirac is the only mainstream candidate to mention British concerns about a "federal" Europe.

but only to elevate France to the role of European "bridge-builder" between Britain and Germany. That does not mean, however, that as president he would be more sympathetic towards a Eurosceptical Britain. On the contrary: His very Frenchness, and his aggressive insistence on retaining the French "cultural difference," make him potentially harder for Britain to deal than either Mr. Jospin, whose socialism is traditional and familiar, or Mr. Balladur.

The Frenchness of Mr. Chirac — in his manner and his priorities — is one feature that could recommend him to France's voters over the other two main candidates. While a man of the right, he has also managed to represent some of the concern about social divisions that hangs over this campaign. In addition, he has the possible advantage of being seen as an outsider. Not associated with either the present presidential party, like Mr. Jospin, or with the present government, like Mr. Balladur.

But he is not home and dry. If Mr. Chirac can present himself as "French" and dynamic, Mr. Balladur can present himself as experienced and competent, and Mr. Jospin can promote himself as the only one genuinely concerned about the social issues that so preoccupy the voters. The choice is theirs.

The Independent

Rewriting the words that made up cold war wisdom

By Fred Halliday

IN THE U.S. the collapse of the Soviet Union has unleashed a debate about the cold war and its outcome that promises to throw many of the assumptions on which that conflict was waged into question. One favourite target of the Republican right as much as of the Democratic liberal left, is that the U.S. has a world role to play. The debate on the U.S. role is, however, sharpened by critical reflections on the cold war and its outcome.

George Kennan, the man who first formulated the "containment" doctrine in the 1940s, now argues that the U.S. did not "win" the cold war at all. Far from defeating the communist challenge by, in his words at the time, "living up to its best traditions," Mr. Kennan sees the U.S. as having relied far too much on military pressure, and as having been corrupted by the way it waged this conflict. He and other critics point to a series of domestic crises — McCarthyism in the 1950s, the domestic turmoil over Vietnam in the 1960s, Watergate in the 1970s, the social cutbacks of the "Reagan revolution" in the 1980s — that accom-

panied, and were to a degree justified by, the waging of cold war.

One man who reacted with alarm to this while in office was Henry Kissinger. He does not think that the Soviet Union could ever have won the cold war but he does argue that the West, and the U.S. in particular, could have lost it. American society was in a state "of near civil war" when he came into office with Nixon in January 1969. The Watergate crisis of 1973-4 was, in his view, the reason why his balance of power policy vis-a-vis the USSR failed. In particular, Dr. Kissinger believes that the 1973 agreement with North and South Vietnam, under which the U.S. finally pulled all its forces out, could have worked if Congress had continued to allow the U.S. government to use its air power in defence of the South. Dr. Kissinger has, few regrets about his time in office: neither the bombing and invasion of Cambodia, nor the December 1972 bombing of North Vietnam, for example, cause him concern.

Robert Gates, former director of the CIA, is equally adamant in defence

of the covert operations of the agency, seeing them as a legitimate riposte to Soviet actions: he places responsibility for almost all operations on the presidency, not the CIA. Mr. Gates, who left the directorship in 1993, has, however, had to face the fact that his organisation, as much as that of his previously derided British counterparts, was also infiltrated at a high level by the KGB: he quotes his predecessor, Richard Helms' advice, that he should go home every evening asking: "not if, but where the mole is?" In the end Aldrich Ames provided the answer to that question.

On Afghanistan, the largest ever CIA covert operation, and one which involved it in a protracted support for drugs dealers and Islamic fundamentalists, Mr. Gates denies that his operation ended by fomenting Islamic fundamentalism. He argues that what happened there after the Soviet withdrawal was not something to which he, or anyone else in office, devoted much attention.

Others, however, do express regret: Robert McNamara, secretary of defence from 1961 to 1968, and the

man many held responsible for the involvement in Vietnam is now about to break his silence on that war in a volume of memoirs. He speaks openly and with regret of misjudgements that underlay the U.S.'s Indo-China policy. He stresses in particular the underestimation of Vietnamese nationalism, and hence its independence of Soviet aims. Unlike many Americans who talk of the war in terms of what Vietnam "did to us", Mr. McNamara expresses equal regret for the larger loss of Vietnamese life: 57,000 as against four million by his count. Later, as president of the World Bank, he went to Cuba and he came to respect the revolution's social, if not its political, achievements, and has become highly critical of the U.S. embargo.

During the cold war itself, much was made, especially in U.S. discussion, of how the West could use nuclear weapons: but those who did so at the time are much more cautious now. Neither Dr. Kissinger, who made his name in 1957 with a book on fighting nuclear war, nor Paul Nitze, a military adviser to several presidents and a noted

hawk, now believe they would ever have been used.

Mr. McNamara, who came out of the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 proclaiming that the U.S. success in getting Soviet missiles out of Cuba was a proof of how nuclear superiority could be used, has since come to believe that there is no such thing as superiority and that much U.S. thinking on the subject was mistaken.

Mr. McNamara is particularly scathing about the way in which U.S. politicians talked of a strategic gap in favour of the USSR: if John F. Kennedy ran for office in 1960 on the basis of a "missile gap" in Russia's favour, Mr. McNamara discovered when he came into office that there was a gap, of 17 to one in the U.S.'s favour. Even Mr. Nitze, who in both the early 1950s and late 1970s was a high profile advocate of the Soviet threat, and who regrets that Kennedy did not do more to humiliate the Russians over their Cuba retreat, now concedes that no such Soviet advantage ever existed.

Today's reflections bring out the degree to which U.S. strategy was haunted by history. Behind fear ab-

out a sudden Soviet nuclear attack was the memory of the surprise Japanese attack at Pearl Harbour in 1941. The central factor constraining the U.S. military in Vietnam from invading the North was not domestic resistance, or a fear of a Soviet nuclear reply, but the memory of the massive Chinese military intervention in Korea at the end of 1950. Today the fear dominating U.S. policy in the post-cold war towards crises as diverse as Haiti or Bosnia, is the memory of Vietnam, of the inability to win, and the divisions this provoked in U.S. society.

Such abstinence is, of course, easier in regard to conflicts far away: it would be ironic indeed if the revolution that was to cause the U.S. the greatest unease turned out to be not that of Russia in 1917, but the immense upheaval which began seven years earlier on its very frontiers, the Mexican revolution of 1910. Few in Washington believe that the recent \$40 billion bail-out will be the last, hence the fear that Mexico will become "Clinton's Vietnam."

The Guardian

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1995
Dr. Ahmad Y. Nakhal

Weekender

April 13, 1995

A

Published Every Thursday

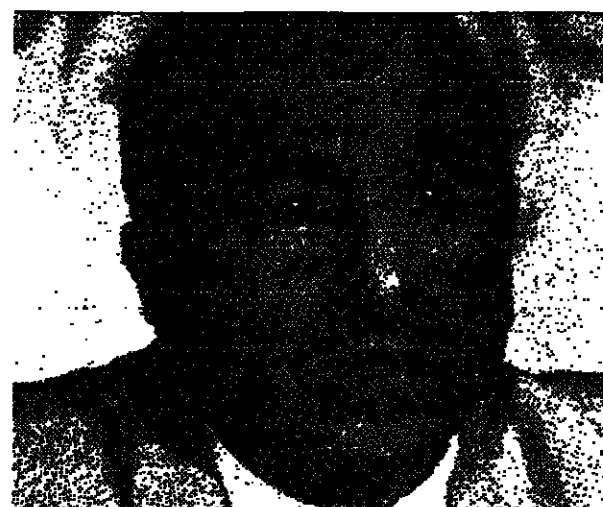
SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Amid children's smiles, press's tug-of-war perseveres

The controversy between the government and some of the country's weekly newspapers, spurred by the government's stopping of the presses at Al Bilad and Hawadith Al Sa'a, brewed some new ingredients for discussion in local tabloids this past week. But first it should be pointed out that no one can seem to agree on nomenclature. Some newspapers describe the issue as "closures," "banning," or even "confiscation." Others opt for the more generic, non-committal forms such as "the situation," "subject," or "topic." And then there is the government, which avoids the use of any adjective, remains tight-lipped on the issue, and simply states, "the cases are before the courts." So what have the tabloids said this past week? First, said one, the situation is getting bad press for Jordan because the government has taken action against some newspapers without clearly explaining why. Another said that the position of the Ministry of Information, that it is simply applying the law, is selective. But whatever the papers said, one senior official admitted privately that the method by which the actions were taken has been inappropriate at best. Meanwhile it appears that "the cases before the court" hold much to be decided upon.

Determination or preoccupation? Seemingly determined to personally enforce the Press and Publications Law, Minister of Information Khalid Karaki last week telephoned the editor of an Arabic daily to complain about his newspaper's coverage of a surgical operation performed by a certain doctor. The minister's objection to the article was that the newspaper was publicising and therefore promoting the surgeon — a tactic which is against the law, Dr. Karaki reminded the editor. The perplexed editor, responded by simply saying, "But, your excellency, Jordan Television a day earlier gave the same surgeon considerable air coverage on the same subject." A caught unaware Dr. Karaki had little more to complain about, according to one account that appeared in a well, tabloid.

Sad returns: Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) is in Amman this week, but not as part of regular visit to meet with colleagues and associates, but on a private obligation necessitated by the death of his older brother Najib Hawatmeh. Najib Hawatmeh died in the U.S. where he had been living. The last time Nayef Hawatmeh was in Jordan was again for a sorrowful occasion one and a half years ago when his nephew passed away. It was not clear whether Mr. Hawatmeh would engage in political talks here, but the occasion has brought him together with many old friends and personalities from the Jordanian and Palestinian communities. In fact, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, represented, by Amman Governor Talat



Nayef Hawatmeh

Nuwaiseh, sent his condolences to the Hawatmeh family. But lingering is the question of whether or not Mr. Hawatmeh will be able to return to Gaza where he has requested to move along with the DFLP to take part in developments there. The answer appears to depend on Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat who would have to facilitate such an arrangement via the Israeli government. A similar situation stands with Tayseer Khalid, who is Mr. Hawatmeh's representative on the PLO Executive Committee. Whereas Mr. Khalid already is on the list of those allowed to return to Gaza, he must still await the backing of Mr. Arafat before the Israeli authorities.

Opposite 'angles': It was no secret that the Royal Scientific Society which last week began celebrating its 25th anniversary has endured considerable criticism in the press over the years. But perhaps no charges were more scathing than those of veteran Al Ra'i columnist Tareq Masarweh, who a few years back blasted the RSS for "non-productivity." So when the cantankerous, controversy advocate stepped forward earlier this week to join a group of his media associates on a tour of the RSS a quarter decade into its mandate, considerable thought was on what would the spirited grand master of criticism write this time. Three days after the press tour, Masarweh wrote the column many were waiting eagerly, perhaps even anxiously, to read. He began: "We are now in an era where we need courageous decision makers, and we need to open our doors to scientifically minded people." He injected: "There is no harm in admitting that we did not know much about this organisation (the RSS)." And he concluded: "Now that the Royal Scientific Society has made clear its objectives — that it wants to work side-by-side with industry, towards standardisation and consumer protection — we would be grateful to see the government taking decisive action" in encouraging cooperation with the RSS. A 180-degree turn? You might say so.



From right to left RSS President Hani Mulqi, Al Ra'i columnist Tareq Masarweh, Al Jamahir Editor Emil Nafa, and RSS Vice President Said Alloush walk on the grounds of RSS during a press tour marking the society's 25th anniversary

Trials and tribulations: Al Dustour journalist Musa Hawamdeh is a man of decisive action. Not only did he resign recently from the Jordanian Press Association in protest against the association's position on the controversy between the Ministry of Information and Al Bilad Arabic daily, but he also published a book that touches upon the daily and nearly routine nuisances and frustrations of his lead and title character, Khabbas Al Da'eh. Hawamdeh's publication is a collection of very short vignettes (averaging 2.5 pages each) which takes you through typical Khabbas experiences. Underlying each story is Hawamdeh's own criticism of situations more than likely experienced just as often by the reader. The



Asmahani Ali, smiles for Air Canada's "en Route" magazine

settings and situations of the stories alone can tell tales: they are on public buses, dealing with civil servants, attending a soccer match-turned grandstand brawl, getting a drivers licence, at the theatre, attending a poetry recital, and so on. Hawamdeh may have found some peace in letting off steam through Khabbas — no doubt he hope his readers will also.

AIR CANADA
enRoute



Mufleh Salem, as featured on the cover of Air Canada's "en Route" magazine

Smiles away: As was promised, Air Canada published its April issue of its "en Route" in-flight magazine featuring a 15-page spread on Jordan, Land of a Thousand Smiles. Whether it was planned or coincidence that the feature appeared at the same time Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor were on an official visit to the North American country, we may never know. But one Jordanian tour guide, Mufleh Salem, will have much to brag about because it was his smile among those thousand that was selected to beam across the cover page of the travel publication, published in English and French. And it was another smile in the feature, that of little Asmahani Ali of Wadi Musa, that we could not resist sharing with our readers to end on and even brighter side.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Director Xie Jin has answers for China's ailing film industry

By Bradley Lee
Agence France Presse

SHANGHAI — Competing with foreign films has put the Chinese film industry in a make-or-break situation but director Xie Jin has a plan to gain a foothold on the international scene and promote mainland talent.

The 72-year-old veteran director, who has just graduated the first class of students from the drama school he opened last year, will collaborate with Hong Kong counterpart Ann Hui on a \$10 million epic about the 19th century Sino-British Opium War.

"It's one of the biggest film budgets ever in China," Xie told AFP. "That's like \$40 million in the U.S. because costs here are lower."

The film, which chronicles the conflict that led to Hong Kong becoming a British colony, is to be completed next year in time for the 1997 hand-over of the territory to Chinese sovereignty.

It is also a first attempt by the director at winning back audiences for Chinese films whose low budgets have made competition with foreign films difficult.

"For Chinese films what is important is money. If we had the same amount

of money (as foreign productions) we could make films like Spielberg's Schindler's List."

Recent screenings of works by Chinese film directors — Zhang Yimou (To Live), Chen Kaige (Farewell to My Concubine), Tian Zhuangzhuang (The Blue Kite) — at international film festivals have focused some attention on the industry but not enough to attract the amount of capital needed.

"A few films have won some international awards but most of them — even the ones I directed — will not reach that level," said Xie, who has won several national awards since beginning his career in 1948.

"It's a very difficult period now for Chinese films," said the director, lounging in the offices of his Xie Jin-Heng Tong School of Performing Arts which saw its first class of 47 young actors and actresses graduate at the end of February.

This year's class — mostly composed of budding actresses in their early 20s — are preparing for roles in another upcoming Xie Jin movie, called Valley Of The Girls (Nu'er Gu), which is based on a novel of the same name.

"I chose to do this film just for my students because it was well-adapted

to them," he said, adding that filming of the production, mainly aimed at a Chinese audience, would begin in nearby Hangzhou on April 1.

The film features eight of the school's graduates as women prisoners who are serving time for past mistakes and "their feelings and regrets," according to school vice president and drama director Yuan Guo Ying.

Yuan, 58, who has translated and produced American dramas for audiences here, said the movie's script was in its seventh rewrite by screenwriter Zong Fuxian and the book's author Zhou Jianping.

To learn their roles the actresses were sent to live in a women's penal colony in Zhejiang province.

"I've never had the experience of entering a prison but I always agree with Xie Jin's methods," said 20-year-old actress Zhao Wei, who spent 20 days in the Jinghua prison to prepare her role.

"It is a difficult role because I am so young but the prisoners already know the hardships of life," added the actress who was inspired to a career in acting after watching films starring Gong Li.

Students at the Xie Jin school, which is supported

by the Heng Tong construction company, spend one year in intensive training and pay 8,000 yuan (\$950) in tuition — expensive for Chinese students used to paying between 2,000 and 3,000 yuan for post-secondary studies.

Payback comes after graduation when students are obliged to give 30 per cent of their gross earnings to the school in the first three years of their careers.

"These students have a good chance with this film after being here only one year and the fact that they graduated from my school," said Xie who enjoys a grandfatherly image among his students.

While the film is not intended to compete with foreign films, it could find some success in China.

"There is a distance between the films that win prizes abroad and the ones the Chinese audiences like," said Yuan.

But for Zhao and other rising stars, who will dominate China's silver screen as directors focus on making their films more competitive, the movie holds the key to success.

"It will help me a lot," said Zhao. "The director Xie Jin is very well-known, and if I do well there will be more roles for me in the future."

No sex, please, we're China Entertainment TV

By Robert MacPherson
Agence France Presse

HONG KONG — By making people happy, Hong Kong Television maestro Robert Chua thinks his latest venture can make money in two to three years.

Since December his China Entertainment Television (CETV) has been dishing out a 24-hour diet of wholesome family shows, telecast by satellite in an initial estimated audience of eight million Chinese households in East Asia.

"No sex, no violence, no news," is China's motto, and he sticks to it with a line-up of variety, soap operas, game shows, talk shows, country music videos and the odd movie. One-third of the programming is produced in-house.

CETV's flagship programme, tellingly, is called Happy Times, co-hosted by the grande dame of Hong Kong television, Lydia Sum, affectionately known to her many fans as "Fei-Fei" (Chubby).

Chua's kind of squeaky-clean programming almost guarantees that Beijing's propaganda chiefs will never pull the plug on Hong Kong-based CETV's all-important re-distribution by cable in

major Chinese cities.

But Chua likes to see it another way. East Asians, he says, are fed up with too much blood and guts in their television screens. Besides, he adds, it's actually harder to do programmes his way.

"Sex and violence programmes are easy to make," the effervescent Singapore-born veteran of Australian, Singaporean and Hong Kong broadcasting said in an interview.

"You don't need creativity. You point the camera and you ask the actors to take their clothes off."

It can work out cheaper, too. With a group of silent partners, some with China connections, Chua has launched CETV with \$30 million and a staff of 130 — a lean operation by satellite television standards.

"We hope to make a profit in two to three years' time," he said. "We're able to control our costs very well. I'm a programming person myself."

In the next year, CETV expects to produce more than 1,000 hours of new programming, complemented by co-productions and "carefully selected imports from

the West."

The market is crowded. Star TV, controlled by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Ltd., was first to leap into the Mandarin-speaking market with its Chinese Channel, supplemented with an encrypted Chinese movie channel seen in Taiwan.

Television Broadcasts International, whose Hong Kong parent Television Broadcast Ltd. (TVB) produces more Chinese programming than China itself, debuted last year.

Then came information-based China Television Networks, related by ownership to the liberal Hong Kong newspaper Ming Pan. Like TVB International, it has two channels.

But Chua is not put off by the competition. "At the moment, there's still room," he said. "Money-wise, there's still room. You just have to do well in programming. That's all."

Some revenue is starting to come in, with CETV identifying Procter and Gamble, Austria's Launda Air, the Beijing-controlled Hong Kong newspaper Wen Wei Po and a Chinese property firm as "major advertisers."

CETV publicity material calls the network the

"ideal programming environment for today's socially responsible advertisers."

Chua is perhaps best known in Hong Kong for helping movie mogul Sir Run Run Shaw launch TVB in the late 1960s and creating its two most successful shows: Enjoy Yourself Tonight and the Miss Hong Kong beauty pageant.

He went independent in 1974 and built up influential contacts with China, becoming the first distributor of foreign-language programming to its lack-luster state-run television stations.

But these days he's cheered by letters sent in by CETV's first viewers in 180 cities in China, including a couple in a northern village who named their newborn baby Huayu — the station's Chinese name.

In the future, Chua sees CETV encrypting its signals next year, adding a second channel, and signing distribution deals in Europe and North America aimed at overseas Chinese communities there — but he's no in a hurry.

"I'd rather be very, very successful and keep our size than be huge and lose money," she said.

The catch

By Jean-Claude Elias

Upon being attractively priced and feature laden products, how many times did you tell yourself "where's the catch"? Depending on the complexity or the simplicity of the product, sales people can more or less easily hide the catch.

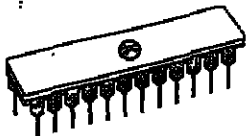
Those who design and prepare advertisements for television or magazines have become very clever at presenting goods in an appealing format, boosting the advantages, "overlooking" the weaknesses while always observing legality.

PCs (personal computers) and all related products are a heaven for vendors trying to lure the prospect into a good deal (for whom?). Take colour printers for instance. The only machines that can currently produce quality output in full, lasting colours, on plain paper, at high resolution and at reasonable speed are high end laser printers. Prices start at JD 5,000. Suppliers however are offering a wide range of colour printers starting at JD 300.

Whatever colour printer the user can purchase between JD 300 and 1,000 has a trade-off. The resolution may be poor or colours may bleed. The ink may take several minutes to dry or will only work on specially coated, expensive paper. Some of these low cost printers take as much as 20 or 30 minutes to produce a full-coloured page. And so forth.

I recently installed a software, called sequencer. I intended to use for computer-based music production. The programme was supposed to allow me to record music from synthesizers — like most sequencers do — and also to simultaneously run

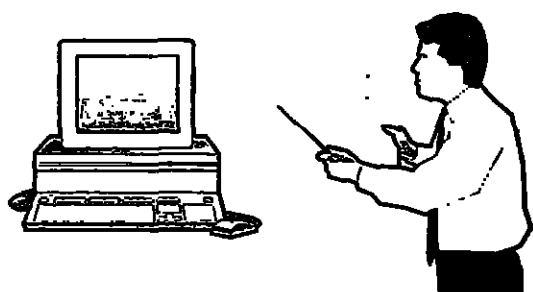
chip talk



digitised sound waves stored on the hard disk, a feature that would have been very useful to me. Upon testing it, I discovered that it could only activate very short wave files, a few seconds long. In order to run a standard, 3 or 4 minutes song for example, I would need more than 32 MB (32 million characters) or memory. Very rarely are PCs equipped with such a huge amount of memory. Most of them have 4 or 8 MB and exceptionally 16 MB.

While you usually get your money's worth of goods, it's still frustrating not to get exactly what you have in mind or what you thought you were buying. PCs characteristics have become complicated. Unless you are a professional or regularly read specialised magazines and follow the market, it's easy to be fooled by flashy figures and specifications. I know people who have acquired CD-ROM, computer laser discs, fascinated by the amount of data they could hold (about 700 MB each). They did not know however that one cannot record on them or erase them like one would do with a standard, magnetic hard disk. CD-ROM are read-only devices that you buy pre-recorded.

The only sensible attitude is not to jump on a new product and try to know the whole story before making any decision. Reading good publications like Byte, Windows Magazine, PC Pro, PC Magazine, Personal Computing World and others can be a great help for all those about to make a new purchase decision. They are always updated with the latest information and prices, are well written and regularly publish unbiased technical tests and comparison reports. Even seasoned professionals use them as a reference. Spending five or six dinars on such a magazine can be informative, enlightening and may save you some disappointment by helping you choose the right product.



It doesn't produce carbon dioxide at all ...

Copyright by J.C. Elias

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

FACTS & FIGURES

The universe is so big that it would take a ray of light 10,000 million years to reach from the farthest region we can observe. The nearest star, Proxima Centauri, is 4 1/4 light years (40 million million kilometres) away.

The Earth is not completely round, but is flattened by 42 kilometres between the poles. The most powerful known volcanic explosion was in about 1470 BC on the island of Thera, Greece. The explosion produced a tsunami (tidal wave) 54 metres high.

The fastest winds are the jet streams, which blow at speeds of up to 500 kilometres per hour high above the Earth. The highest recorded temperature on the ground is 58°C in Libya. The lowest is -89°C in Antarctica.

The average height of the land above the sea is 750 metres. The largest island is Greenland, which has an area of 2,180,000 square kilometres. Greenland and most other islands that lie in the middle of oceans do not form part of any continent.

A year on Mercury lasts 88 earth-days; a year on Pluto lasts 248 earth-years. Although Saturn is huge, its force of gravity is only slightly more than earth's.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— May I come in? Hal tasmah lee bid'dukhooh?
— Please, do. Tafaddal.
— Do you mind if I smoke? Hal yudeeroka tad'kheeni?
— No, I don't. Kalla.
— Do you see what I mean? Hal todrik ma aani?
— Yes, I do. Na'am/Ajal.
— What do you think of this watch? Ma ra'yoka fee hahehis-sa'a?
— It's extremely fantastic. Innaha ra'e'a jiddan.
— What do you do for a living? Matha ta'f'al letaksaba aysyak?
— I have a small shop for selling old clothes and shoes. Amlik mahallan saghiran le'bay al-malabess wal-ah'theyal qadima.
— Thanks a lot. Shukran jazzeelon.
— Don't mention it. La shukran ala wajib.

TIME FOR FUN

★ SPOILED GIRL: I hate seeing his face. He looks "sauvage."
FATHER: Who is it, my dear? Is he the doorman or the porter?

DAUGHTER: Oh, dad! I'm not kidding. He's my fiancé. He lets loose both beard and moustache.
FATHER: Don't trouble yourself with such trifles. He'll soon rid of them against his will the moment you marry him!

★ When Joha's wife finished washing the family's clothes, she began to hang them on a long rope at the top of a high building. A few moments passed when Joha noticed his shirt falling down on the pavement.

JOHA: Hurrah! Hurrah! Cheer up, my sweetheart.
WIFE: What happened, my dear?
JOHA: I've been saved. I'm still alive. Had I worn this shirt, I'd have been dead.

★ MOTHER: Don't disturb me and stop playing with the alarm clock.
SON: Don't worry, mum. I do that so as to get our neighbours know that there's a telephone in our house.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Lake Erie and Lake Ontario are linked by which canal?
2. Yabusame is a Japanese version of which sport?
3. Which breed of dog is considered to be the tallest?
4. To whom was Churchill referring when he said "There he stalks, that Wuthering Height."
5. When was the term "Concentration Camp" first used?
6. What is the English word for the Italian "Zingaro"?

PUZZLES

ALPHABET SOUP

(A) Use any letter from the alphabet that gives these sentences some sense:

1. She likes a round neck, but I like a
2. This store has everything from A to
3. My mother likes to drink
4. I..... the (stinging insect).
5. marks the spot.

(B) 7777.....!!
A certain number, consisting entirely of sevens, is divisible by 199. It is required to determine the last four figures of the quotient, without finding the whole quotient.

Amman through a rear window

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

I pity myself sometimes for believing in the power of art, architecture and engineering to give form to a vision of our civilisation at its highest level. Life in this city has become a joke. Just as well, this totally befits those who will one day have the future as they run wild and demolish a university campus for reasons which were supposed to have been behind for the sake of a national unity we were, and are always supposed to nurture. Everything we build, from our sometimes bland and always foolish domestic architecture to the folly we call commercial architecture, reflects our people's greed and their basic anxiety of losing what they have accumulated materially.

Whether by default or by design, physical Amman is slowly turning into the Los Angeles of Jordan. By this I mean that it is becoming a clustered city where it is becoming impossible to travel from one end of it to the other without driving on four and five-lane stretches of tarmac that run in the midst of unused land, sometimes right there in the centre of the city.

All this is of course the crowning achievement of a planning policy of creating centres of activity around commercial hubs where half way through, the centre is abandoned in favour of a new location. We created Sweifteh, left it a mess and moved on to create what we know as Abdoun which we are now slowly abandoning in favour of new sites along the Salt Highway.

But in our haste, what kind of buildings and spaces are we creating for the future? How will the buildings

we are creating today look in thirty years' time? What will we think of them then? How will the expressways we are creating today in the middle of our cities be used then?

These are all fair questions that anyone who wonders about life in the future has the right to ask. We all travel abroad to Europe because we enjoy the narrow streets and the beauty of the articulately detailed facades of its buildings. So how will our lovely cubic apartment buildings with their pitiful exterior make us, and our visitors, feel 30 years from today. What sort of emotions will they stir in us, if any?

How will the new commercial hub of today that is the ex-Gardens Street look and feel in 30 years time? Will it retain its present "grandeur" or will it be perceived as the monstrosity that it always has been, a ten-lane traffic artery with, mostly, ugly commercial structures that, along with the street, have no respect for the needs and comfort of people.

Are these really the buildings that will carry us into the 21st century and beyond? Will they even still be habitable in 30 years time? Will we be able to modify them to suit our needs in the year 2030? Will we even want to?

These questions are not only necessary if we are to re-examine the way we design our buildings in the present time, but are also legitimate if the state of our architecture is anything to go by. We need a system where architects who design irresponsibly for clients who care for profit and sickening extravagance rather than beauty are made accountable to the society for which and in which they live and practice.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 13

1:00 Dennis The Menace

1:30 My Secret Identity

2:00 N.B.A.

3:00 Survival

3:50 Blue Heelers

4:30 French Programme

7:30 The Album Show

8:00 Blue Revolution

9:15 E.N.G

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — She Woke Up

12:00 Burning Shores

Friday, April 14

1:00 Lift Off

1:30 Why Didn't I Think Of That?

2:00 A Year In The Life

2:45 Feature Film — Choices

4:15 White Fang

4:45 French Programme

7:30 African Skies

8:00 Movie Magic

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:10 The Law And Harry McGraw

10:00 News In English

10:20 Documentary — Mini Dragons

"Malaysia"

11:30 Feature Film — Flight Of Black Angel

Saturday, April 15

2:00 Dog City

2:30 Harry And The Hendersons

3:00 Witness To Survival

3:30 Road To Avonlea

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Documentary — Life In The Freezer

8:30 The Nanny

9:00 Documentary — Dive The World

9:15 Cape Rebel

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Across The Red Night

12:00 Tanamera

Sunday, April 16

2:00 Animated Classics — Pinnocchio

3:00 Feature Film — Cry Wilderness

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Masterpieces Of Literature

8:30 Almost Home

9:10 The Other Side Of Paradise

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Runaway Father

12:00 The Hidden Room

12:30 Grace And Favour

Monday, April 17

2:00 Madeline

2:30 Munster's Today

3:00 Hard Time On Planet Earth

3:50 Pals

4:15 The Language Of Animals

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Voyager

8:30 Laurie Hill

9:10 South Beach

10:00 News In English

10:20 Strauss Dynasty

11:20 Feature Film — Nowhere To Hide

Tuesday, April 18

2:00 Captain Planet

2:30 I Witness Video

3:30 Road To Avonlea

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 The Nature Of Things

8:30 Desmond's

9:10 Jack The Ripper

10:00 News In English

10:20 Seaforth

12:00 Lonesome Dove

Wednesday, 19

2:00 The Flintstones

2:30 Hot Shots

3:00 Beakman's World

3:30 Movies, Games And Videos

4:00 Amazing Stories

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 The Marvellous Machine — Stomach and Intestine

8:30 GP

9:15 Berlin Break

10:00 News In English

10:20 Prism

10:40 Dandelion Dead

11:30 Keeping Up Appearances

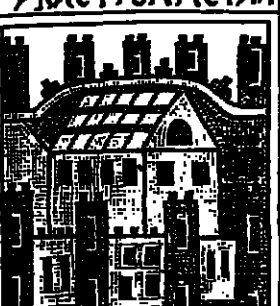
Inspired art and scholarship that transcends time, space and culture

**Umm Al-Rasas Mayfa'ah I
Gli Scavi Del Complesso Di Santo Stefano**
By Michele Piccirillo and Eugenio Alliata

Stadium Biblicum Franciscanum, Jerusalem 1994
376 pp. colour plates
\$80 (available at Mt. Nebo)

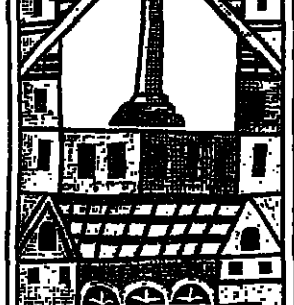
In recent years Jordan has been fortunate to witness the publication of a series of quality books on different aspects of our archaeological heritage, a series that is now joined by this

ΥΚΑΚΤΡΟΝΜΕΦΑΑ



A drawing of part of the floor mosaic in the Church of St. Stephen depicting three Jordanian towns labelled in Greek letters: Kastrom Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) at top, Philadelphia (Amman) in the centre, and Madaba at the bottom.

ΥΚΑΚΤΡΟΝΜΕΦΑΑ



Drawing of the depiction of Kastrom Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) in the mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen.

ΥΚΑΚΤΡΟΝΜΕΦΑΑ



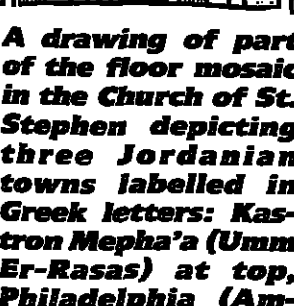
Drawing of the depiction of Kastrom Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) in the mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen.

ΥΚΑΚΤΡΟΝΜΕΦΑΑ



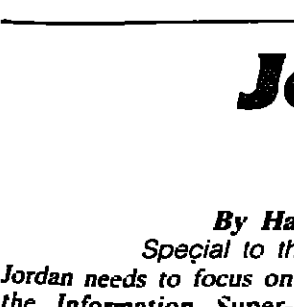
Drawing of the depiction of Kastrom Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) in the mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen.

ΥΚΑΚΤΡΟΝΜΕΦΑΑ



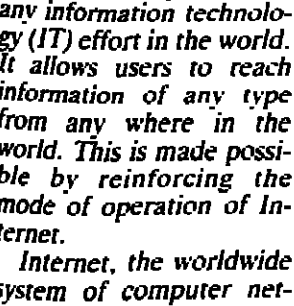
Drawing of the depiction of Kastrom Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) in the mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen.

ΥΚΑΚΤΡΟΝΜΕΦΑΑ



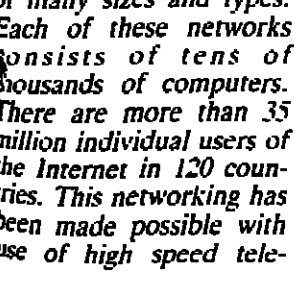
Drawing of the depiction of Kastrom Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) in the mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen.

ΥΚΑΚΤΡΟΝΜΕΦΑΑ



Drawing of the depiction of Kastrom Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) in the mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen.

ΥΚΑΚΤΡΟΝΜΕΦΑΑ



Drawing of the depiction of Kastrom Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) in the mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen.

ΥΚΑΚΤΡΟΝΜΕΦΑΑ

pieces of the puzzle that has been resolved thanks to the fine fieldwork and scholarship of Piccirillo and Alliata.

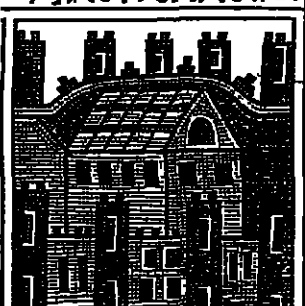
If there is a single theme that permeates the history of this important site, it is the theme of transcendence, of a single place that transcends time, geography, culture and religion. The major remains at the site date from the Byzantine period, and the St. Stephen's Church Complex itself appears to date from around 587 AD until its abandonment in the 9th century.

BOOK REVIEW

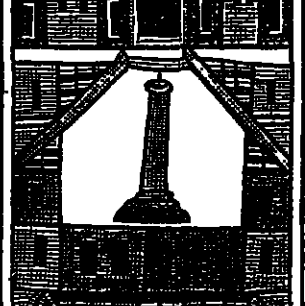
The fact that the church and its Christian community existed well into the early Islamic period repeats a theme that has often defined the land of Jordan, in ancient times and today — the theme of cultural and religious pluralism, of people of different cultural traditions and faiths coexisting in relative peace and harmony.

The mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen is renowned for its depiction of cities from the east and west banks of the Jordan River, and also from Egypt. This is another theme that pertains to the ancient and modern history of the region — that the people of the land of Jordan survived and even flourished when they related to their

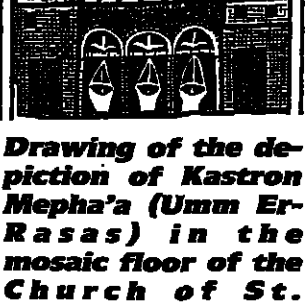
ΥΚΑΚΤΡΟΝΜΕΦΑΑ



Drawing of the depiction of Kastrom Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) in the mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen.

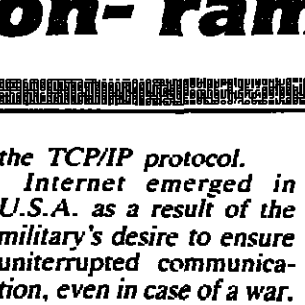


Drawing of the depiction of Kastrom Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) in the mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen.



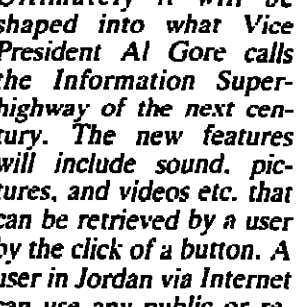
Drawing of the depiction of Kastrom Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) in the mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen.

ΥΚΑΚΤΡΟΝΜΕΦΑΑ



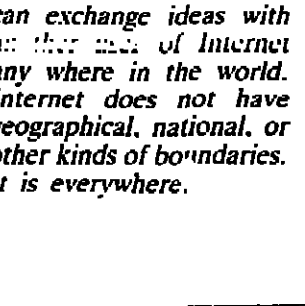
Drawing of the depiction of Kastrom Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) in the mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen.

ΥΚΑΚΤΡΟΝΜΕΦΑΑ



Drawing of the depiction of Kastrom Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) in the mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen.

ΥΚΑΚΤΡΟΝΜΕΦΑΑ



Drawing of the depiction of Kastrom Mepha'a (Umm Er-Rasas) in the mosaic floor of the Church of St. Stephen.

ΥΚΑΚΤΡΟΝΜΕΦΑΑ

wider Middle Eastern hinterland, in terms of commerce, politics, security and even national identity.

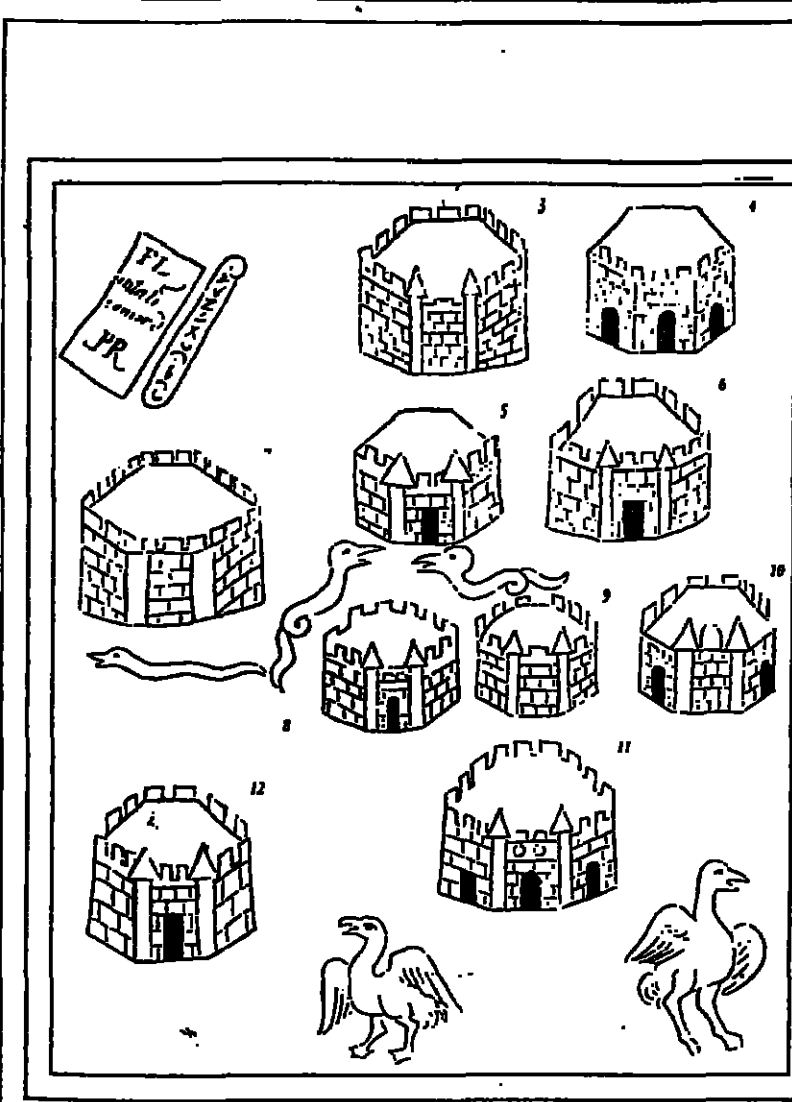
The site's transcendence of time is captured in the artifacts that have been recovered from several different periods. From the time of the biblical era town of Mepha'a are some pottery sherds and remains of a pillar, dating from the Iron Age II era in the 7th/6th centuries BC. Thamudic and Nabatean inscriptions, a sculptured lamb, coins and architectural elements

probably date from the time just before the during the early Roman era, while the Roman period itself is represented by pottery sherds and an inscription fragment.

The Byzantine era town, with its many churches, extensive residential quarters and lone tower north of the main site, represents the dominant remains that can be visited today. This book will be most interesting to students of the Byzantine period, especially of the rich mosaics dating from the 6th-8th centuries. The early Islamic townsites is also coming to light as the excavations continue, and the archaeological material is confirming the presence of a town that has been long known from several different Islamic era literary sources.

A mid-8th century AD account of the life of the Prophet Mohammad recounts the tale of a man from Mecca, 'Zayd Ibn 'Amr' who left Mecca immediately before the Islamic era to seek the true religion of Abraham. In his travels, it is told, he visited a monk in the town of 'Mayfa'ah, of the land of Al Balqa', but he died on his return journey to Mecca. The monk told him that a prophet would soon arrive in his lands and would bring with him the true religion of Abraham — a prophecy of the advent of Islam. A later 17th century Islamic account also speaks of a monk at Mepha'a who met the young Mohammad himself and prophesied his mission.

The site of this ancient town that was known from biblical, Roman and Islamic accounts had never been firmly identified, until the present Franciscan excavations turned up depictions of the town in the mosaic floors of two churches, both labelled in Greek with the name 'Kastrom Mepha'a', meaning the



Part of the Notitia Dignitatum map showing Roman era legionary camps and fortified towns in the Province of Arabia.

- 3 Animotha
Equites scutarii Illyriciani
- 4 Tricomia
Equites promoti Illyriciani
- 5 Areopolis
Equites Mauri Illyriciani
- 6 Speluncis
Equites promoti indigenae
- 7 Ziza
Equites Dalmatae Illyriciani
- 8 Meffa
Equites promoti indigenae
- 9 Gadda
Equites sagittarii indigenae
- 10 Bostra
Praefectus legionis tertiae
Cyrenaicae
- 11 Diafenos
Equites sagittarii indigenae
- 12 Bettora
Praefectus legionis quartae
Mauriae

Arabia. Umm Er-Rasas is depicted as number 8 (in the centre), named as 'Meffa' in the legend at right.

fortified camp or town-site of Mepha'a. In fact, the name Kastrom Mepha'a appears four times in Greek inscriptions in the excavated remains of the Church of St. Stephen and the Church of the Lions.

The identification of modern Umm Er-Rasas/Byzantine Kastrom Mepha'a with the biblical Mepha'a-ath (a Levitical city of refuge in the territory of the tribe of Reuben on the Moabite plain, according to Joshua 13:21) was strengthened by the Iron Age finds. It then became certain that Umm Er-Rasas was also the Roman town-camp of Mepha'a with its auxiliary cavalry unit, whose existence in this region is known from several Roman era documents, especially the early 4th century Onomasticon, by Eusebius, and the early 5th century Notitia Dignitatum map of the Arabian provinces.

This piecing together of a puzzle that has challenged scholars from the last 188 years, since Seetzen first recorded the site of Umm Er-Rasas, is typical of the thrill of discovery that makes archaeology such a special discipline that satisfies scholars as well as

ordinary lay people. This book's value is that it captures this phenomenon, while taking the reader on an exciting journey of discovery, inspiration and beautiful works of art that spans several cultures, religions, landscapes and millennia.

Like the Mosaics of Jordan book that was written by Father Piccirillo and published last year by the American Centre of Oriental Research, this volume will become a collector's item one day because of the sheer power and beauty of the full-page, four-colour photographs of the mosaic floors, both entire floors and close-ups. Only in volumes such as this can people appreciate the full artistic and even spiritual merit of the mosaics of Jordan, given the high quality photography and printing that permit us to scan an entire floor mosaic as a single creative whole.

Another noteworthy feature of this book is the fact that it was sponsored by five Italian private companies whose donations enjoyed tax exempt status under enlightened Italian law. The five companies (Balestra SpA, Massolini SpA, Rabobank Italia,

Sangemini SpA, and Tre Pi SpA) should be recognised and thanked for their public spiritedness. Their support for this kind of wide public dissemination of scholarly works ultimately will be as important to the public's appreciation and protection of our heritage as the archaeological excavations themselves.

This book is a credit to

all those who have been associated with it, and it will surely help to boost yet further the rising standards of scholarly publishing that Jordan has enjoyed in recent years. It is only available for the moment at Mt. Nebo, and is well worth its price.

Rami G. Khouri

Thoughts for this week

When you make your peace with authority, you become authority — Jim Morrison, American rock singer (1943-1971).

Worry. How pointless. I know the theory is that all this concern for the frustrated aged or forgotten Chinese children helps to change attitudes and to create at least an atmosphere in which something might happen... but I wonder if it doesn't work the other way round as well... you get too used to it. You just shrug — Katherine Whitehorn, British newspaper columnist.

I could prove God statistically. Take the human body alone — the chances that all the functions of an individual would just happen is a statistical monstrosity — George H. Gallup, American pollster (1901-1984).

Were there none who were discontented with what they have, the world would never reach anything better — Florence Nightingale, English nursing pioneer.

Religion is love; in no case is it logic — Beatrice Potter Webb, English sociologist (1858-1943).

Jordan is on-ramp to information superhighway

By Habib Khan

Special to the Jordan Times

Jordan needs to focus on the Information Superhighway (ISH) and its functioning because ISH is the ultimate aspiration of any information technology (IT) effort in the world. It allows users to reach information of any type from any where in the world. This is made possible by reinforcing the mode of operation of Internet.

Internet, the worldwide system of computer networks is the foundation of ISH. It contains separately administered networks of many sizes and types. Each of these networks consists of tens of thousands of computers. There are more than 35 million individual users of the Internet in 120 countries. This networking has been made possible with use of high speed tele-

phone lines, fibre-optic connections, and satellite links.

This high level of connectivity fosters an unparalleled degree of communication, collaboration, resource sharing, and information access.

There is no one network known as the Internet, rather various regional nets are all interconnected communicating under the protocol called "TCP/IP." The Internet provides electronic mail (E-Mail), files transfer (FTP), remote login or telnet, a feature for the traveller. Another network, Bitnet, consists of systems connected point-to-point links, all running the "NJE" protocol. Bitnet allows E-Mail and FTP, but not remote telnet, because it does not support

the TCP/IP protocol.

Internet emerged in U.S.A. as a result of the military's desire to ensure uninterrupted communication, even in case of a war. Today scientists are working to improve and enhance its functioning. Ultimately it will be shaped into what Vice President Al Gore calls the Information Superhighway of the next century. The new features will include sound, pictures, and videos etc. that can be retrieved by a user by the click of a button. A user in Jordan via Internet can use any public or research database around the world in a matter of seconds. Also, a reason can exchange ideas with any other user of Internet anywhere in the world. Internet does not have geographical, national, or other kinds of boundaries. It is everywhere.

These unique features of Internet have made it an essential component of education and science. Today, an educational institution without access to Internet is considered "deficient." All educational institutions subscribe to Internet and pay a nominal annual fee. Students and faculty thus use Internet free of charge. It is spreading very fast, countries that did not have the link, are establishing connection to Internet to be in touch with recent developments. Various institutions in U.S.A. offer courses through Internet. Any one with access to Internet can enrol in these courses without leaving his/her home. Its universal existence and availability in the neighbouring countries make it imperative for Jordan to establish this link.

Jordan has not been on

Internet so far except a recently established E-Mail service discussed later. Among the educational institutions, only some universities with thorough programmes in computer sciences, use local area network (LAN) to share software. Unfortunately none of these LANs are interconnected, so no cross talking on any campus. To pave the way for making a junction with Internet, all universities will need to bridge their LANs together to create a new form of communication environment. This will enable teachers to post messages and students can be encouraged to respond to them. Consequently, it will help in developing a culture of E-Mail that is obviously step one to Internet. There is no shortage of expertise in Jordan, with a couple of high speed mod-

ems, routers, and using on-campus telephone lines, this form of communication can be set up soon. Luckily some universities have an Amman-telephone number that can reduce communication charges between these universities. Once universities are on "Jordanet" they can share their resources. Say, for example, the CD-ROM collection of the University of Jordan can be one item on Jordanet. Simultaneously policy makers in Jordan will need to make a decision for establishing a regular on-line connection to Internet. Internet is available in the country next door. Therefore, the most logical and probably cost-effective point of connection to the Internet is Israel. It will not only realise the goal of access to Internet, but will be a

significant contribution to reinforce the peace process between the two nations.

Regarding E-Mail, recently a private company, NETS, has made it possible to have access to Internet in Jordan. With more than 200 members, NETS provides a window to the outside world. Members pay a monthly subscription fee and nominal charge for each usage. They can send E-Mail any time of the day to a location in Amman via a modem, whereas the real exchange of information with Internet takes place at fixed times of the day. The service is remarkable for exchanging routine messages. Using this service for research, however, may not be cost effective, which strongly supports the case for linkage with Internet within the public sector. NETS is a

quicker and an efficient way of communication but is not a replacement of Internet.

With Internet technology, education in Jordan will get closer to some prestigious institutions in the world. Once in place it will be essential to ensure optimum use of this media. This will require a serious review of current strategies and will demand new approaches to education in Jordan to be devised. Consequently, the Ministry of Education should provide leadership by engaging experts to chalk out a plan of action. A national strategy needs to be devised on Internet, educational computing, and new approaches to education in an electronic culture. All this will ensure an easy on-ramp from Jordan to ISH through the Internet and ensure smooth cruising.

The state: Women's protector or controller?

Women, Islam And The State
Edited by Deniz Kandiyoti, Philadelphia:
Temple University Press, 1991, 276 pages, soft
cover \$19.95

Women, Islam And The State refutes the assumption that the women's question is a narrow or secondary issue. By focusing on the role of the state, the essays in this book reveal the women's question to be part of the central dynamics whereby societies develop and function. Defining women's role has been a significant aspect of the state-building and modernisation processes undertaken in most of the nine countries covered in the book. In turn, women's situation is largely determined by the state's policy, including the extent to which it confronts, accommodates or relies on Islam.

Despite the precision of the analysis put forth, the book offers no magic solutions to the problem of women's oppression, except for subtle hints that progress can be made only if women organise independently. Nor is there a uniform explanation for women's current subordinate status, for conditions vary widely from country to country. The policy of some states (Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Egypt) has been quite contradictory. In other cases, communal conflicts have complicated matters (Lebanon, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh).

The essay on South Yemen (1967-88) is something of an exception, since it is the only state covered which adopted Soviet-style socialism. Despite very backward conditions, South Yemen developed a radical legal system which brought many liberating benefits to women, without the state engaging in head-on confrontation with Islam. This was, however, a short-lived phenomenon; unification with the North was followed by increased fundamentalism and setbacks for women's rights.

What unites the eight women academics who contributed to Women, Islam And The State is shared dissatisfaction with the lack of historical context in much of what has been written about women in Muslim societies.

This lack has led to a "paradoxical convergence between Western orientalist, whose ahistorical and ethnocentric depictions of Muslim societies have been the subject of extensive critique, and Muslim feminists and scholars with a genuine interest in radical change" (p. 1). To avoid such pitfalls, the book deals with Islam "not as a set of abstract beliefs concerning relations between individuals and a putative divine being, but as an ideological system that enjoins and legitimises forms of social practice" (p. 238). Completely absent are the familiar accounts of what the Koran says about women in this or that verse. Instead the spotlight is on the political actors and intellectuals — male and female, religious and secular, nationalist and communalist, modernist and traditionalist — who have shaped public debate and policy in the countries concerned from the end of the last century until the present.

In the course of their respective modernisation schemes, Atatürk's Turkey, the Shah's Iran and Nasser's Egypt all granted women new rights simultaneously with blocking their autonomous initiatives. Nominally, women gained access to education, jobs, political representation and a larger measure of independence from their families. But ultimately,

state intervention in the private sphere aimed at breaking down traditional religious and kinship ties in favour of a new form of social control. Previously subordinated to individual male family members, women now became the legal subordinates of "all men," i.e., state authority. It remains an open question whether such benevolent paternalism fostered or hindered women's liberation.

Improvement in women's legal status is only one side of the coin. In many countries, mass poverty is an overriding factor preventing the majority of women from utilising new opportunities offered by state legislation.

Critics of the shah's regime have even argued that women's oppression intensified with the socio-economic changes wrought by his modernisation drive.

In Iran, Turkey and post-Nasser Egypt, modernisation imposed from above was associated with Westernisation. This eventually elicited a backlash which took religious form, since "Islam has been a consistent vehicle for popular classes to express their alienation from 'Westernised' elites" (p. 8). In this context, women's liberation was viewed as an imported idea. While technological modernisation was accepted as inevitable, encroachments on the private sphere were not. Family relations, and especially women's status herein, became the last bastion for societies seeking to retain their authenticity and integrity in a rapidly changing Western-dominated world.

Due to their child-bearing and rearing role, women are regarded as the receptacle and vehicle of cultural authenticity; accordingly, they became the main targets of Islamisation drives in the late 70s. The Islamic Republic in Iran provides a prime example of the results.

In the course of analysing women's situation, the book makes a valuable contribution to current discussions about Islam's revival. In an essay on Iran, Afshaneh Najmabadi rejects many of the usual explanations for this phenomenon. If the new Islamic movements arise from the religion itself, she queries, why then are they stronger now than in the past when societies were more bound by religious norms? Najmabadi also rejects the migration of deeply religious peasants into the cities as a main cause, since the social base of the new Islamic movements is the urban middle and lower class, not the peasantry.

Instead, Najmabadi explains the resurgence of Islam as "a conscious political rejection of the West and the political models associated with it (be they nationalism, socialism, parliamentary democracy, etc.) in favour of the construction of an Islamic order."

In her view, this constitutes "a shift from modernisation as the central project and concern of society to moral purification and ideological reconstruction" (p. 64).

The focus of Women, Islam And The State should make it of interest to all those who are concerned about women's rights. Many of the problems and paradoxes of the societies analysed also exist in Jordan, though in more subtle form. While modern human conditions prevail in many fields, the daily lives of large numbers of women remain governed by outdated, restrictive laws and norms.

Sally Bland

BOOK REVIEW

Who deceived whom? BOOK REVIEW

Trick Or Treason: The October Surprise Mystery

By Robert Parry
New York: Sheridan Square Press, 1993
350 pages, hardback \$24.95

Robert Parry is an investigative reporter who has worked for Associated Press, Newsweek and the Public Broadcasting System (PBS). Specialising in national security issues, he wrote some of the ground-breaking stories about the Iran-contra scandal. In Trick Or Treason, he recounts his efforts on behalf of PBS's Frontline documentary programme to get to the bottom of allegations that Reagan Republicans engaged in large-scale deception well prior to the dirty deals of Iran-contra.

The October Surprise is the name given to a non-event, something that never happened. It refers to the possibility that the Carter administration might have obtained the release of the U.S. hostages held in Tehran, in October of 1980, one month before the U.S. presidential elections. Obviously, an "October Surprise" would have enhanced Jimmy Carter's chances for reelection considerably. In the event, Ronald Reagan defeated the incumbent president, and the hostages were not released until the very day he was inaugurated. The timing of the release, coupled with allegations that have surfaced intermittently since 1980, gave rise to much speculation: Had members of Reagan's campaign staff worked out a deal with the Iranians to delay the hostages' release, thus thwarting any potential "October Surprise" and ensuring Carter's defeat?

As a matter of fact, the Israelis shipped U.S. military equipment to the Islamic Republic in October 1980, in contravention of the Carter administration's embargo on Iran. But were these shipments strictly a Mossad affair? Or were they arranged in coordination with Reagan's campaign staff which was headed by career intelligence officer, William Casey, who subsequently became CIA chief and a main player in the Iran-contra affair?

Trick Or Treason reviews the multiple allegations, indications and theories that the Reagan Republicans did indeed cut a deal to provide the Iranians with arms in return for a delayed hostage release. But the problem, as Robert Parry sees it, is that most of those claiming first-hand knowledge of events would make unreliable witnesses. They are a motley collection of arms merchants and ex-Mossad or CIA operatives, some of whom might have personal interests in spreading disinformation. On the other hand, "reliable sources" — U.S., Israeli, French and other government officials — were either unable or unwilling to give definite testimony. And there was no smoking gun or corpse to prove that a deal had ever been reached.

So the mystery remains a mystery. The reader wades through pages of tantalising, but elusive and sometimes evasive, interviews with arms merchants, spies and officials in the U.S., Israel, Europe and Iran; as well as loads of circumstantial evidence. Towards the end, one wonders why Parry published the book at all, aside from the obvious reason of recouping the trouble he went to.

Then in the last chapters, Parry more explicitly sets forth his own convictions. He is a serious journalist committed to the need for honesty in government, the public's right to know and the media's role herein. In the course of his two-and-a-half year investigation, he struggled to keep an open mind and examine all data pertaining to the "October Surprise Mystery" objectively.

In the end he was shocked by the intensity with which Republican circles resisted investigation of the affair. After all, if there was no scandal, they should be forthcoming with information to disprove the

TRICK OR TREASON

The October Surprise Mystery

by Robert Parry

allegations. Instead, a wall of utmost secrecy was wrapped around the facts and, most especially, the doings and whereabouts of William Casey and George Bush in the autumn of 1980.

Equally, Parry was appalled by the complicity of the Democratic Party establishment and mainstream journalists in putting a lid on the affair rather than pursuing the truth: "I could not forget that the Iran-contra scandal had broken open in Washington in 1986 not because of the investigative reporting that a few of us were doing into Oliver North's secret network. The story finally cracked through the government denials because a teenage army draftee in Nicaragua shot down a supply plane in October 1986. A month later, again no thanks to American reporters, a newspaper in Lebanon disclosed President Reagan's arms-for-hostage deals in Iran... By the end of the Reagan-Bush era, it seemed, journalists were not only acquiescing in the theft of American history, they sometimes were advocating it" (pp. 327-8).

The "October Surprise Mystery" may never be solved. As Parry notes, "Clinton's promise to renew American democracy did not include a commitment to get to the truth about the national security scandals and mysteries that had spanned the Reagan-Bush era" (p. 329).

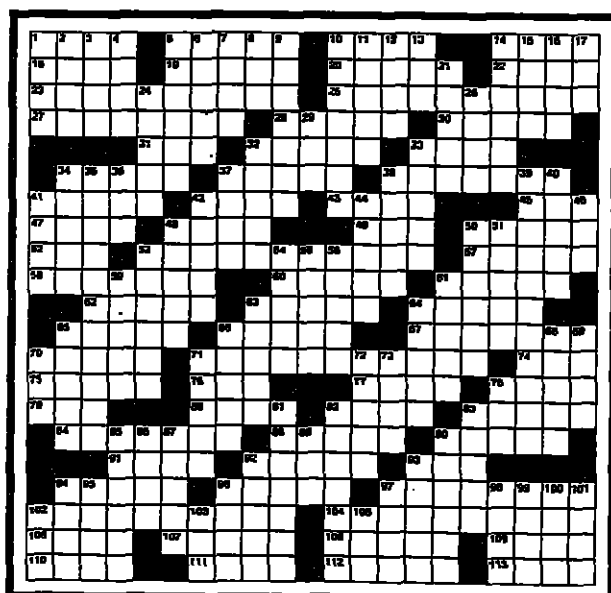
However, Parry himself suffers from certain biases prevalent among U.S. journalists, which impede his analysis. The time span of his investigation partially parallels the 1990-91 Gulf crisis and war on Iraq, but he never questions the correctness of U.S. interventionism, even though this is what spawns the sordid dealings which he decries. One cannot fault Parry for not solving the "October Surprise Mystery." But had he connected the facts he recounts about the workings of the White House, CIA and international arms market, with a more critical evaluation of U.S. foreign policy goals, he might have written a more interesting book.

Sally Bland

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

CHILL OUT!
By Penni Singleton

- ACROSS
1. Money matters
 2. Sensory
 3. Longest word
 4. Longest word
 5. A "three" of cards
 6. A "three" of cards
 7. A "three" of cards
 8. A "three" of cards
 9. A "three" of cards
 10. A "three" of cards
 11. A "three" of cards
 12. A "three" of cards
 13. A "three" of cards
 14. A "three" of cards
 15. A "three" of cards
 16. A "three" of cards
 17. A "three" of cards
 18. A "three" of cards
 19. A "three" of cards
 20. A "three" of cards
 21. A "three" of cards
 22. A "three" of cards
 23. A "three" of cards
 24. A "three" of cards
 25. A "three" of cards
 26. A "three" of cards
 27. A "three" of cards
 28. A "three" of cards
 29. A "three" of cards
 30. A "three" of cards
 31. A "three" of cards
 32. A "three" of cards
 33. A "three" of cards
 34. A "three" of cards
 35. A "three" of cards
 36. A "three" of cards
 37. A "three" of cards
 38. A "three" of cards
 39. A "three" of cards
 40. A "three" of cards
 41. A "three" of cards
 42. A "three" of cards
 43. A "three" of cards
 44. A "three" of cards
 45. A "three" of cards
 46. A "three" of cards
 47. A "three" of cards
 48. A "three" of cards
 49. A "three" of cards
 50. A "three" of cards
 51. A "three" of cards
 52. A "three" of cards
 53. A "three" of cards
 54. A "three" of cards
 55. A "three" of cards
 56. A "three" of cards
 57. A "three" of cards
 58. A "three" of cards
 59. A "three" of cards
 60. A "three" of cards
 61. A "three" of cards
 62. A "three" of cards
 63. A "three" of cards
 64. A "three" of cards
 65. A "three" of cards
 66. A "three" of cards
 67. A "three" of cards
 68. A "three" of cards
 69. A "three" of cards
 70. A "three" of cards
 71. A "three" of cards
 72. A "three" of cards
 73. A "three" of cards
 74. A "three" of cards
 75. A "three" of cards
 76. A "three" of cards
 77. A "three" of cards
 78. A "three" of cards
 79. A "three" of cards
 80. A "three" of cards
 81. A "three" of cards
 82. A "three" of cards
 83. A "three" of cards
 84. A "three" of cards
 85. A "three" of cards
 86. A "three" of cards
 87. A "three" of cards
 88. A "three" of cards
 89. A "three" of cards
 90. A "three" of cards
 91. A "three" of cards
 92. A "three" of cards
 93. A "three" of cards
 94. A "three" of cards
 95. A "three" of cards
 96. A "three" of cards
 97. A "three" of cards
 98. A "three" of cards
 99. A "three" of cards
 100. A "three" of cards

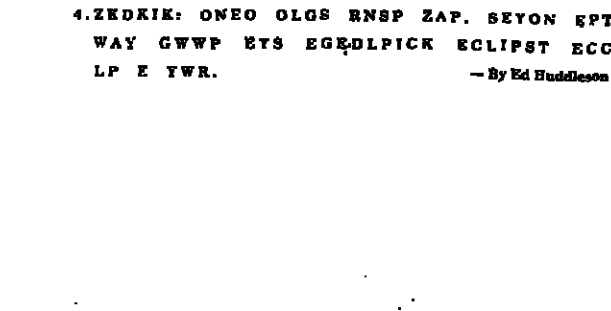
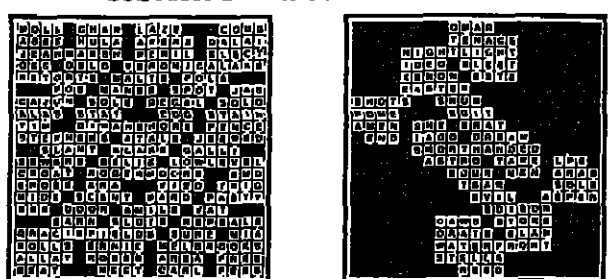


Diagrams 19 x 18
By Frances Burton

- ACROSS
1. Money matters
 2. Sensory
 3. Longest word
 4. Longest word
 5. A "three" of cards
 6. A "three" of cards
 7. A "three" of cards
 8. A "three" of cards
 9. A "three" of cards
 10. A "three" of cards
 11. A "three" of cards
 12. A "three" of cards
 13. A "three" of cards
 14. A "three" of cards
 15. A "three" of cards
 16. A "three" of cards
 17. A "three" of cards
 18. A "three" of cards
 19. A "three" of cards
 20. A "three" of cards
 21. A "three" of cards
 22. A "three" of cards
 23. A "three" of cards
 24. A "three" of cards
 25. A "three" of cards
 26. A "three" of cards
 27. A "three" of cards
 28. A "three" of cards
 29. A "three" of cards
 30. A "three" of cards
 31. A "three" of cards
 32. A "three" of cards
 33. A "three" of cards
 34. A "three" of cards
 35. A "three" of cards
 36. A "three" of cards
 37. A "three" of cards
 38. A "three" of cards
 39. A "three" of cards
 40. A "three" of cards
 41. A "three" of cards
 42. A "three" of cards
 43. A "three" of cards
 44. A "three" of cards
 45. A "three" of cards
 46. A "three" of cards
 47. A "three" of cards
 48. A "three" of cards
 49. A "three" of cards
 50. A "three" of cards
 51. A "three" of cards
 52. A "three" of cards
 53. A "three" of cards
 54. A "three" of cards
 55. A "three" of cards
 56. A "three" of cards
 57. A "three" of cards
 58. A "three" of cards
 59. A "three" of cards
 60. A "three" of cards
 61. A "three" of cards
 62. A "three" of cards
 63. A "three" of cards
 64. A "three" of cards
 65. A "three" of cards
 66. A "three" of cards
 67. A "three" of cards
 68. A "three" of cards
 69. A "three" of cards
 70. A "three" of cards
 71. A "three" of cards
 72. A "three" of cards
 73. A "three" of cards
 74. A "three" of cards
 75. A "three" of cards
 76. A "three" of cards
 77. A "three" of cards
 78. A "three" of cards
 79. A "three" of cards
 80. A "three" of cards
 81. A "three" of cards
 82. A "three" of cards
 83. A "three" of cards
 84. A "three" of cards
 85. A "three" of cards
 86. A "three" of cards
 87. A "three" of cards
 88. A "three" of cards
 89. A "three" of cards
 90. A "three" of cards
 91. A "three" of cards
 92. A "three" of cards
 93. A "three" of cards
 94. A "three" of cards
 95. A "three" of cards
 96. A "three" of cards
 97. A "three" of cards
 98. A "three" of cards
 99. A "three" of cards
 100. A "three" of cards

- DOWN
1. Money matters
 2. Sensory
 3. Longest word
 4. Longest word
 5. A "three" of cards
 6. A "three" of cards
 7. A "three" of cards
 8. A "three" of cards
 9. A "three" of cards
 10. A "three" of cards
 11. A "three" of cards
 12. A "three" of cards
 13. A "three" of cards
 14. A "three" of cards
 15. A "three" of cards
 16. A "three" of cards
 17. A "three" of cards
 18. A "three" of cards
 19. A "three" of cards
 20. A "three" of cards
 21. A "three" of cards
 22. A "three" of cards
 23. A "three" of cards
 24. A "three" of cards
 25. A "three" of cards
 26. A "three" of cards
 27. A "three" of cards
 28. A "three" of cards
 29. A "three" of cards
 30. A "three" of cards
 31. A "three" of cards
 32. A "three" of cards
 33. A "three" of cards
 34. A "three" of cards
 35. A "three" of cards
 36. A "three" of cards
 37. A "three" of cards
 38. A "three" of cards
 39. A "three" of cards
 40. A "three" of cards
 41. A "three" of cards
 42. A "three" of cards
 43. A "three" of cards
 44. A "three" of cards
 45. A "three" of cards
 46. A "three" of cards
 47. A "three" of cards
 48. A "three" of cards
 49. A "three" of cards
 50. A "three" of cards
 51. A "three" of cards
 52. A "three" of cards
 53. A "three" of cards
 54. A "three" of cards
 55. A "three" of cards
 56. A "three" of cards
 57. A "three" of cards
 58. A "three" of cards
 59. A "three" of cards
 60. A "three" of cards
 61. A "three" of cards
 62. A "three" of cards
 63. A "three" of cards
 64. A "three" of cards
 65. A "three" of cards
 66. A "three" of cards
 67. A "three" of cards
 68. A "three" of cards
 69. A "three" of cards
 70. A "three" of cards
 71. A "three" of cards
 72. A "three" of cards
 73. A "three" of cards
 74. A "three" of cards
 75. A "three" of cards
 76. A "three" of cards
 77. A "three" of cards
 78. A "three" of cards
 79. A "three" of cards
 80. A "three" of cards
 81. A "three" of cards
 82. A "three" of cards
 83. A "three" of cards
 84. A "three" of cards
 85. A "three" of cards
 86. A "three" of cards
 87. A "three" of cards
 88. A "three" of cards
 89. A "three" of cards
 90. A "three" of cards
 91. A "three" of cards
 92. A "three" of cards
 93. A "three" of cards
 94. A "three" of cards
 95. A "three" of cards
 96. A "three" of cards
 97. A "three" of cards
 98. A "three" of cards
 99. A "three" of cards
 100. A "three" of cards

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Tabloid TV talk shows turn murderous

NEW YORK (AFP) — Scott Amedure, 32, went to a taping of a tabloid talk show assuming the secret admirer he would meet was a woman. Instead Jon Schmitz, 24, revealed that he had a crush on Amedure.

But before that edition of the Jenny Jones show could be broadcast, Schmitz sent a love note to Amedure, who responded by shooting him dead. The otherwise unremarkable killing in a Detroit suburb has raised questions about tabloid talk shows like Jenny Jones and the role that confrontation and emotional turmoil play in attracting viewers whose interest seems purely voyeuristic.

There are about 20 talk shows whose topics range from the serious to the sleazy, with the sleazy predominating when audiences begin to slip away. About 40 million viewers tune in daily. Sex and relationships are a favourite topic, with racism and drugs not far behind.

For example, of the 15 shows broadcast Thursday, March 30, topics included computer stalking, hermaphrodites, women who cheat, teens who swap sex partners and John Bobbitt, who became an actor in porn films after his wife cut off his penis.

In typical recent shows, a young woman announced to her mother that they shared a lover, who emerged then from the wings; a man told his wife that he married her for her money and a woman told her sister that she was pregnant by the sister's boyfriend.

"The guests are people

who have nothing to leave," says sociologist Vicki Abt, who recently wrote a book entitled The Shameless World Of Phil. Sally and Oprah: Television Talk Shows and The Deconstructing Of Society. By appearing on television, "they get to be a celebrity."

"We receive hundreds of applications for each show," says Glenda Shaw, a producer for the New York-produced show Rolonda. While acknowledging that an expense-paid trip to New York or Chicago — where most of the shows are taped — is a big draw for guests, Shaw says there are other attractions.

"A lot of people come on because they can't afford therapy. It's a place for them to air their differences," she added. "It's the only forum on TV where everyday people can be part of the show," says Jerry Springer, whose show is the second most popular nationwide. "It's honest, raw emotion."

Producers try to be good Samaritans but are also cautious. They hire security guards for guests, and some ask psychologists to be on hand to help with any trauma that may result. Virtually all require guests to sign release forms promising the show that they will not sue.

But confrontation is encouraged. Critics such as Roger Ailes, owner of the America's Talking cable channel, pans the shows as being "an endless parade of people who want their 15 minutes of fame no matter how badly they have to humiliate themselves to get it."

ANSWERS

- BANK OF KNOWLEDGE**
1. Welland Ship Canal.
 2. Archery. The contestants shoot at a small target from a trotting horse.
 3. Irish wolfhound.
 4. Lord Reith
 5. During the Boer War. The name was given to centres where Boer civilians were interned by Kitchener from 1901-1912.
 6. Gipsy. Hence Zingarescu, a gipsy song.
- *****
- PUZZLES**
- (A) 1- V 2- Z 3- T
4- C B 5- X
- (B) 199 x the quotient = the number 7777...

i.e. $200 \times \text{the quotient} = \text{the number}$.
Let A, B, C, D be the last four figures of the quotient.
Then the quotient multiplied by 200 ends thus:
R. S. O. O.
Where R, S, are the figures resulting from multiplying C, D by 2.
Setting out the subtraction:
R S O O
A B C D
7 7 7 7 7
We see that D = 3 and C = 2
 $\therefore S = 2D = 6$
 $R = 2C = 4$, which tells us that B = 8, and A = 6
 \therefore the last four figures of the quotient are:
6823

A report by Jordan on the status of activities leading to the economic summit

Preparations get under way for Amman summit

Background information

1. THE FIRST formal mention of the Amman Economic Summit came in operative paragraph 16 of the Casablanca Declaration, which read as follows: "The participants expressed their intention to meet again in Amman, Jordan, in the first half of 1995 for a second Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit, to be hosted by His Majesty King Hussein."

Furthermore, the Casablanca Declaration established in operative paragraph 9, a Steering Committee comprised of government representatives, including those represented in the Steering Committee of the multilateral group of the peace process, and entrusted it with the task of following up all issues arising out of the summit in coordination with existing multilateral structures such as REDWG. The Steering Committee was asked to meet within one month following the Casablanca Summit.

2. The Steering Committee held its first formal meeting in Brussels on Nov. 30, 1994 as called for in the Casablanca Declaration. Attending the meeting were delegations from the United States, Russian Federation, the European Union, Japan, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and the Palestinian National Authority. An observer from the World Economic Forum (WEF) also attended the meeting. The meeting had four agenda items including the "Organisation of the Amman Summit."

3. Concerning the Amman

summit all parties emphasised the need for a different kind of gathering in Amman: smaller, more focused on private sector participation and geared to specific sectors or themes with the objective of announcing several flagship projects during the meeting. The themes or sectors should be linked, if possible, with ongoing efforts in the multilaterals. The Jordanian delegation described a number of workshops and seminars planned in the coming months which could be used to identify sectors and projects to be highlighted at the Amman summit. The observer from the WEF suggested that, as a result of the WEF survey on Casablanca participants, the Amman summit be held around October 1995. He also noted a positive response to the Amman summit and that 18 CEOs (chief executive officers) have agreed to participate in the WEF business interaction group. No decision on the timing of the Amman summit was taken in Brussels.

4. The Steering Committee held its next meeting, which was an informal one, in Washington D.C. on Jan. 9, 1995. The meeting was attended by the co-sponsors, the regional parties, the European Union, Morocco and Japan. Also present was Mr. Gregory Blatt of the World Economic Forum. The agenda included the timing of the Amman summit, sectors for emphasis, and the date and venue of the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

The outcome of the meeting was as follows: — The summit will be held in Amman during Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 1995.

— The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held in Amman around mid-March, 1995. — On the substantive issues, it was decided to follow the Thematic Approach which His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan introduced earlier on in Casablanca. Furthermore, there will be sub-themes which will be the subjects for workshops and seminars.

— It was decided to utilise the opportunity of the forthcoming annual Davos meeting and have a brain storming session with the business interaction group on the Amman Summit.

5. The next meeting where the Amman summit was discussed was the meeting which was held in Bonn on Jan. 17 for the monitoring committee of REDWG and on Jan. 18-19 for the REDWG plenary. At those meetings, there was a feeling that the REDWG technical work should constitute an important input to the Amman summit.

It was hoped that the announcement on the creation of the Middle East Regional Development Bank will be made at the Amman summit.

6. The next meeting relevant to the Amman summit was the Davos annual meeting held on Jan. 26-29, 1995. The main activity was a working breakfast on Jan. 27 of the business interaction group. The Jordanian delegation presented the host country thinking on

the Amman summit which integrates the ideas that the Amman summit will solidify the peace process on the ground, interact with the multilateral economic talks, and produce concrete results. The majority of views suggested that, essentially, the desired outcome may be achieved by having the Amman summit:

— Use the lessons of Casablanca. — Be business oriented. — Be of manageable size. — Be held in an environment favourable to business.

7. At the end of their meeting on Feb. 7-8 in Tabá, Egypt, the ministers of trade from Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority as well as the U.S. secretary of commerce welcomed the convening of the Amman summit and called on the international public and private community to fully support this important initiative which will promote trade and investments in the region. This text was present in the final Tabá Declaration of Feb. 8, 1995.

8. Following informal consultations which took place during the first meeting of the task force on the regional financing mechanism held in Washington D.C., it was decided to hold the next meeting of the Steering Committee on April 10, 1995 in Amman.

Status of activities leading to the summit

Background

1. The government of Jordan, in offering to host the summit, is aware of its historic responsibilities towards its people and other peoples of the region. In particular, it is firmly determined that its own children, and all children of this region, shall be able to live a normal life and pursue their dreams and hopes for peace and prosperity.

2. It is with this background, that the government and people of Jordan will join other countries in making the Amman summit an opportunity for consolidating peace in the region. The Casablanca meeting was a strong political statement to usher regional cooperation among all countries in the Middle East region. We hope at the Amman summit, to move forward to the next level of details as it is our firm belief that the advances made in the peace process should go along with a serious consideration of the socio-economic disparities in the Middle East region and require that we address the concept of security in the region in all its aspects: social, economic, and political. In this context, it is hoped that these issues will be addressed within the framework of a global approach encompassing socio-economic dimensions, and the welfare of the peoples of the region.

Activities to date

1. Shortly after the January meeting of the Steering Committee held in Washington D.C., a national preparatory committee headed by the minister of trade and industry was formed in Jordan. The committee includes the private sector through the chambers of commerce and

industry. Furthermore, a higher level national Steering Committee for the summit was formed headed by the prime minister.

2. To date, the preparatory committee established a coordination mechanism with leading figures from the private sector including the major investment holding companies. Meetings with the different groupings in the Jordanian private sector were held in which the private sector participated actively. The preparatory committee will form sectoral sub-committees with a view to preparing projects including feasibility studies and financing packages as well as an overview of the business environment and proposals to achieve Jordan's goals of market reform, privatisation, and other related issues. The Jordan government took several measures to create the proper environment for the summit including:

Working to establish a trilateral partnership between government, the business community, and financial institutions.

Continuation of the liberalisation and market friendly economic reform programmes (dismantling barriers to ensure free flow of trade and investments). Amending investment and income tax laws.

Proceeding at a faster pace with programmes for privatisation.

3. Furthermore, a three-day meeting in Amman was held with the World Economic Forum last month where all aspects of the summit were examined including venue and the WEF will, I believe, report

briefly on their recommendations. We are in agreement with the WEF that:

— The Amman summit should be business-oriented and not only to big companies but to smaller companies as well. — The Amman summit should concentrate on a select group of industries, allow for product matching, and establish a data base for future business activities. Furthermore, work should be done with the chambers of commerce and industry and established companies in the region. This should be done first on the national level and then regionally.

— The emphasis should be on the private sector, few well-defined themes, and the need for concrete results. Workshops or round table meetings will be organised prior to the summit (April-September) with a view to presenting to the summit ready packages for implementation. We hope to be able to identify together, few projects that will be announced at the summit where implementation has already started or will start in the immediate future. Furthermore, it is hoped that the creation of the Middle East regional financing mechanism will be announced at the summit.

Workshops prior to and during the conference will be held on the key sectors to be agreed upon. The themes of the summit may include: Infrastructure, trade and finance, investments, and the environment. Sectoral workshops may include: finance, tourism, trade, Jordan Rift Valley, and environmental

issues. Already workshops were held in Jordan on tourism, electricity and transport. A workshop on the Jordan Rift Valley will be held by the end of this month and other forthcoming workshops are expected on tourism, water, finance and investments, and the private sector.

— Several non-Jordanian partners are involved in the Jordanian preparatory process. The World Economic Forum of Davos is an active partner helping with all aspects of the summit, as well as marketing the summit to the international business community. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has been involved since late last year with the identification of national projects as well as preparing the private sector in Jordan to ensure their effective participation in the summit including the preparatory workshops that are scheduled to be held prior to the summit.

The U.S. Department of Commerce and the State Department are actively involved in the many aspects of the preparatory process. The European Union is involved in preparing regional studies on the various themes of the conference as well as in the workshops.

Japan is, of course, actively contributing to the work on tourism. UNIDO offered to sponsor a workshop on finance and investments.

Finally, the work already done by REDWG since the Madrid conference, in particular the Copenhagen plan of action, shall constitute an important input in terms of regional projects.

PNA orders registration of guns

(Continued from page 1)

Medein said weapons not surrendered within one month would be taken by force. "We will never accept more militants and more arms," Mr. Abu Medein said.

A spokesman for Hamas said its fighters would not surrender arms as long as Israeli soldiers remained in Gaza, guarding the Jewish settlements where about 5,000 Israelis continue to live.

"While the Israelis are still here and killing the people, it is nonsense to ask the people to give up their weapons with which they protect themselves," said Mahmoud Zahar, a senior political figure in Hamas. "We will never give up our weapons."

But Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath vowed the campaign would be carried out to the end.

"Until Hamas, Jihad and everybody commit themselves to respect the agreement (with Israel), we have to take the measures necessary to protect the national interest," he said. "We have to get our house in order."

Mr. Zahar said: "We have to protect ourselves from the Israelis. If you take their weapons, it would mean you are giving a chance for Israel to arrest them. Regardless of the result, they will never give their weapons."

"It will not be easy to take weapons by force. The weapons are not in stores, they are in the hands of fighters and they will not give their weapons."

Dr. Zahar added, however, that Hamas was not seeking

conflict with the Palestinian Authority and called for talks with Mr. Arafat to calm the situation in Gaza.

"I'm ready to meet with Arafat if it is to end the violence and end the police attitude and release the prisoners."

A Hamas member close to the group's military wing, Izzedine Al Qassam, which has turned increasingly to suicide bombings, warned that militant methods would "evolve and develop the way they have in the past."

An activist from Islamic Jihad, regarded by some as being more radical than Hamas, said: "They want to disarm us but the mujahdeen (holy fighters) will never relinquish their arms."

"We know we are exposed to Israeli forces at any time. The Israeli Mossad is everywhere, none of the fugitives will allow their guns to be taken away, these are precious objects," said the activist, who requested anonymity because he was on the run.

Around 1,500 Palestinians gathered at the Shatti refugee camp in Gaza in memory of Hamas suicide-bomber Imad Abu Ammuna, who wounded nine Israelis in one of Sunday's attacks.

In Cairo, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Wednesday called for Israel and the PLO to form a united front against attacks by Palestinian militants trying to scuttle the peace process.

His comments came a day after he met with Mr. Arafat for talks on the peace process in the light of the double suicide-bombing.

France drops bid to lift sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

from the Gulf war.

France has also proposed several amendments to the draft, asking for \$1.5 billion over 90 days and making allowances for costs Iraq needs to restart pumping oil. The \$1.5 billion figure is also unacceptable to the sponsors.

IAEA probe

The International Atomic Energy Agency is investigating allegations that Iraq has secretly been working on technology required to make nuclear weapons, according to a report circulated on Tuesday.

Diplomats familiar with the report's contents said the Vienna-based agency was examining documents that suggest Iraq was conducting theoretical computer-based programmes on nuclear weapons designs.

But the agency at this point

is unable to verify the authenticity of the materials, obtained by the London Sunday Times from a "defecting" Iraqi nuclear scientist who faxed some documents to the paper before he "vanished."

The report says that Iraq denied it had such a programme and that the IAEA was unable to come to any conclusions in its initial analysis of the documents.

The IAEA is in charge of destroying all nuclear equipment and materials while a New York-based U.N. Special Commission is responsible for chemical, biological and ballistic weapons.

The new IAEA report, however, says that equipment and essential components of Iraq's past nuclear weapons programme have been destroyed, removed or rendered harmless.

It also says that a long-term monitoring system to help ensure Iraq cannot reacquire these weapons is in place and operational.

Rabin rejects call to send troops

(Continued from page 1)

from 23 to eight and in Jerusalem from four to two," he said.

Mr. Rabin said 105 Israelis have been killed since Jan. 1, 1994, of whom 67 have died in five suicide attacks.

He said the continued contacts between Israelis and Palestinians in the territories created ideal conditions for suicide bombings. "The mad mullahs enflame the young and incite them to sacrifice their lives in the name of blind hatred."

Israeli troops are deployed in the Strip to protect Jewish settlements which remained despite autonomy.

The leader of the right-wing opposition Likud party, Benjamin Netanyahu, accused the government of "giving in to terrorism."

The Gaza Strip had become a "terrorists' heaven," Mr. Netanyahu charged, warning against the extension of Palestinian autonomy to the West Bank.

The left-wing Meretz party, which is part of the ruling coalition, called for the dismantlement of Kfar Darom, Netzarim and Morag settlements in the Gaza Strip as well as the Hebron settlement on the West Bank to try to stamp out attacks.

"It is impossible to defend these settlements. Their upkeep does not only put the lives of settlers in danger but also those of the soldiers tasked with defending them," the party's parliamentary group said.

Haaretz newspaper said Israel aims to cut the number of entry points for Palestinians under a separation plan designed in curbing attacks by enemies of the peace process. Police Minister Moshe

Shahal submitted the plan to Mr. Rabin on Tuesday and it was to be discussed in cabinet.

Haaretz said the plan limits Palestinian entry to the Jewish state to 11 checkpoints, compared to several dozen at present. Israelis would be able to use the same crossings as well as seven others exclusively set up for them.

The plan — devised by police, the army and Shin Beth intelligence service — outlines a separation roughly along the green line between Israel and the West Bank.

But some sections would also incorporate occupied areas and "annexed" East Jerusalem.

Sophisticated equipment would be used at the crossings to detect explosives and arms, while helicopters fly along the separation line to prevent infiltrations.

"Entry into Israel will only be allowed to people and vehicles registered by us," Mr. Shahal told Israeli television.

"The number of people crossing into our territory will be reduced and they will only be allowed to enter through crossing points under our control," the minister said.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$280 million, on top of running costs of \$90 million a year.

The experts who drew up the plan believe Palestinian hardliners will still be able to pull off attacks inside Israel because a hermetically-sealed line would be impossible, Haaretz reported.

The plan would not "strangle" the Palestinians by confining them to their territories and therefore was not in contradiction with the PLO-Israeli autonomy accords, they argue.

EURODOLLAR IN JORDAN

EuroDollar International is pleased to announce the appointment of a brand new partner in the fast growing tourist and business market of Jordan.

Formerly Eagle Rent A Car, and established in 1993, this organisation is one of the fastest growing Car Rental groups in this country. They are already dealing with many Tour Operators and hold numerous contracts in the rapidly developing domestic and international markets. Based in Amman City they will be introducing a unique Courtesy Bus service from Amman International Airport to leading city hotels and will also be opening branches in Aqaba and the Jordan valley within the next year.

A strong Sales & Marketing programme has been agreed with EuroDollar International and Mr. Marouf Abu Samra, the general manager of EuroDollar (Jordan), has been joined in this exciting project by Mr. Rand Dia. Mr. Rand Dia has extensive sales and marketing experience in domestic and international car rental dating back to 1979.

Mr. Freddie Aldous, chairman of EuroDollar International, said: "... we are delighted that two such progressive companies have joined forces to become a major car rental player in this exciting and fast expanding market place. We are looking forward to offering both inbound customers to Jordan and the domestic car rental market a quality service, supported by excellent vehicles and very competitive prices..."



Islamist militants on trial in a Cairo court (AFP photo)

Founder of radical group preaches peace for Egypt

By Mae Ghalwash
The Associated Press

SOHAG, Egypt — His appearance puts him in the leagues of Egypt's Muslim militants: scraggly beard, long, traditional robe. His aides check identity cards before meetings with strangers. Female guests must don a veil.

But Sheikh Salah Ahmed, one of the founders of Egypt's most radical Muslim group, Al Gamaa Al Islamiyya, preaches a message distinct from militant leaders. He wants an end to the three-year war between the government and the militants who want to throw out Egypt's secular system.

An Islamic state is best brought about peacefully, Ahmed says. He describes his programme as one of "dialogue and shunning violence. We call for both."

Intellectuals and former government officials have echoed his call for an end to the violence. It may offer Egypt a way out of a bitter conflict that has killed more than 670 people, tarnished its reputation and sapped crucial tourist dollars.

"Most of the provinces were not violent, but the police forced them to be so," Mr. Ahmed, a portly man of 41, said in an interview. "If the government stopped its violence, it would find a good reac-

tion."

So far, the government has ignored appeals for dialogue with the militants on grounds it would give them undue credibility. In the past three months, security forces have stepped up their crackdown, imposing curfews, making mass arrests and often shooting militants dead in their hideouts.

Already more than 160 people have died this year, almost matching the 183 killed in 1994. Most of the bloodshed has occurred in El Minya, a picturesque region of sugar cane and palm trees where militants enjoy support.

For its part, Al Gamaa Al Islamiyya (the Islamic Group) insists it will keep up its drive to overthrow the government and install strict religious rule. Its militants have killed eight foreigners in a campaign to cripple tourism, and the group is suspected in bombings of cafes, banks and tourist buses in Cairo.

But in the southern province of Sohag, where Mr. Ahmed is the emir, or leader, of the Islamic Group, militant violence has been at a minimum. Five people have been killed this year — one policeman and four militants. In 1994, two officers and 12 militants were killed. In the preceding two years, no one died.

Islamic activists in Sohag attribute their restraint to Mr. Ahmed, who is quick

to smile and enjoys jokes with an Islamic tint.

He says his message has been peaceful ever since he helped found the Islamic Group in 1974, and he swore he and his followers would stay non-violent.

Islam "says there should be no bloodletting," said Hosni Mahmoud, who is Mr. Ahmed's deputy. "This violence will only benefit those who are the enemies of Islam."

Only a few police cars are parked near major buildings in Sohag, about 240 kilometres south of Cairo. Farther north in Minya, meanwhile, armoured vehicles protect police stations, soldiers man pillboxes and barricades block roads.

Rather than totting rifles, Mr. Ahmed's followers sell honey and sesame paste at the Ansar Al Sunna Mosque, where Mr. Ahmed preaches. They hold government jobs — Mr. Ahmed himself is an electrical engineer at the government power plant in Sohag.

Most militants deem working for the government sinful.

There is anger among Sohag residents for what they consider the government's reliance on violence. People complain that police in patrol cars drag in youths at random, detaining them for a few hours to months at a time. Um Sayed, 56, is the

widowed mother of five. Police have imprisoned two of her sons, her two sons-in-law, grandson and two nephews on suspicion of being militants.

Wrapped in long black veils, Um Sayed rocks back and forth in a wooden seat in front of Mr. Ahmed swears her sons will not take up arms to avenge themselves against the government.

But as she talks about her children and her restless nights punctuated with nightmares, she breaks into tears.

"I hope there will come a day when (officials) see their children out into tiny places in front of them," she said. "I want them to feel what I am feeling."

Others support Mr. Ahmed's peaceful message.

Montasser Zayat, a prominent lawyer who defended militants and often served as the Islamic Group's spokesman, has urged Islamic militants to lay down their arms.

He was jailed for seven months on charges of having ties with the militants. He wants an end to the violence to save the movement.

"I advise the Islamic movement in this stage and in the next to change their tactics... so as not to lose the sympathy of the people and because the government is stronger," he said.

Economy

OECD: Women earn 40% less than men

PARIS (R) — Women earn on average 40 per cent less than men of the same age and with the same education level, a report by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) released Tuesday showed.

Part of the reason for the disparity is that women are more likely to work part-time, said the survey produced yearly by the 25-member nation think-tank. The gap is biggest in Switzerland, the Netherlands and Britain where on average women's pay is less than half that of men. In Italy and Finland the gap is smallest with women on average earning 76 per cent of men's salaries.

The gap is largest for least educated women.

OECD countries spend on average 6.1 per cent of their gross domestic product on education with Finland and

Canada leading the way. Germany, Japan and the Netherlands invest the least.

Male university graduates in all countries earn on average between 45 and 75 per cent more than men with a senior school education. But in Italy, the Netherlands and New Zealand, the advantage of a university education is much less.

The overall pattern is much the same for women. However, they gain least financial advantage from a degree in Austria, Denmark and Italy and most in Portugal and Britain. In Britain, a female graduate earns twice as much as a woman with only a senior school education, the report said.

Most countries in the survey agreed that mathematics and the native language should form the core of the school curriculum. Foreign languages are also seen as desirable everywhere except

in Britain and the United States.

The report showed that education "is key to a job but no longer a passport to a job," Thomas Alexander, OECD education director, told a news conference.

But little education is more likely to result in unemployment. In France, for example, unemployment is 57 per cent among youngsters with a lower school education while in the United States the rate is 37 per cent.

Among people with a university degree, the jobless rate is 12 per cent in France and eight per cent in the United States.

The report did not delve into which countries provided the best education but it did look at reading achievement and found that among nine-year-olds, Finns displayed the best reading skills, followed by Americans and Swedes.

Survey: Americans feel okay about money today, downbeat about future

NEW YORK (AP) — Many Americans are worrying less about their pocketbooks, yet believe the country is in a long-term slide and don't trust government a whit, a survey found.

Money magazine's 10th such poll found what it called a "puzzling sense of gloom" amid signs that the economy is growing at a healthy clip.

In one telling sign about people's view of the future — or perhaps just about a belief in their own luck — 11 per cent of the 1,416 people surveyed said the best way to get rich is to play the lottery.

The national poll is in the magazine's May issue, distributed Wednesday.

It was conducted by Willard and Shullman, a Greenwich, Connecticut, research firm, and was based on mailed responses from household decisionmakers. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 per cent.

All in all, Americans were fretting less about money than last year.

An unexpected \$1,000 bill to pay would cause trouble for only 39 per cent, down from 48 per cent last year. Fifty-five per cent said they worry often about money, compared with 61 per cent last year.

Sixty-four per cent said they'd have trouble finding a job if they lost theirs, compared with 74 per cent last year.

Yet, half of those surveyed felt that the economy wouldn't get better in 1995, and 22 per cent predicted a decline. Fifty-five per cent said the country is in a "long-term decline," while 45 per cent disagreed.

Also, 45 per cent felt they would have just enough or not enough money to live on in their retirement years.

Asked for their views on the politicians and bureaucrats in the capital, 89 per cent said they don't trust them to make the right decisions, and only 19 per cent said they're getting their money's worth from the federal government.

Sixty-one per cent said the top priority should be balancing the budget through a constitutional amendment or spending cuts. That compared with 31 per cent last year.

Of course, there are always those who find money too taxing to ponder at all. Asked which they thought about more often, 44 per cent said money and 15 per cent said sex. Sixteen per cent said their thoughts never strayed to either.

Prices soar in Iraq after sanctions end delayed

BAGHDAD (R) — Prices for baby food, flour and other essentials soared in Baghdad Wednesday on word the U.N. was still not satisfied with Iraqi progress in dismantling and was not likely to lift sanctions soon.

The price of a kilogramme of powdered food for infants jumped to 850 dinars from 350 and a kilogramme of flour rose to 575 from 350.

A kilogramme of rice sold for 600 dinars, a kilogramme of sugar cost 800 and a litre (quart) of cooking oil sold for 2,500 dinars in a country where civil servants earn on average 3,500 dinars (about \$3) a month.

The dinar, whose value has plummeted since Iraq was banned from exporting oil after it invaded Kuwait in 1990, was trading at 1,200 dinars on the black market.

The government supplies staples, including baby milk, at giveaway prices but these hardly meet half of basic needs and the rest must be fetched from the inflated spot market.

The latest price rises in Iraq's devastated economy came after advance copies circulated at the United Nations of the latest review by the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) of Iraq's prog-

ress towards disarmament. It said all signs pointed to Iraq conducting an undisclosed germ warfare programme.

The commission said it was concerned about what Iraq had done with up to 17 tonnes of biological materials that could be used for such a programme.

The commission, headed by Rolf Ekeus, must give Iraq a clean bill of health concerning disarmament before the U.N. Security Council would consider lifting the

sanctions.

Iraqi officials and the state-run press said the latest UNSCOM report was positive on other weapons areas, particularly the crucial weapons monitoring systems, and pledged to continue cooperation with Mr. Ekeus to fill in the gaps.

The Iraqi government, eager to buy as much grain as possible to maintain food rations in the face of sanctions, has almost trebled prices on offer to Iraqi farmers for wheat and barley.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 13, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Contact someone who has the ability to assist you in your career and state to this individual what it is you need the most.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have fine ideas of a practical nature which can be made to work with the assistance of out-of-town newcomers.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day to talk over with persons just now to become more prosperous today and in the future.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think over what demanding partners expect from you today and satisfy only to the right extent which does not cause you problems.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get right down to the core of any tasks ahead of you today and polish them off nicely, but cooperate more with fellow associates.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get into the activities which will give you an end from worry today and have a delightful time with your loved ones! Show much affection for your mate.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a fine day today to stay at home and get into fine condition. Then you should invite guests into your home tonight and treat them very nicely.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is an ideal day today to join with as many friends as possible and plan for greater success by tonight.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get all those fine ideas down to workable level today and be more practical to get the right results so that you can progress in your career.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get your personal aims well organized in the morning so that you can gain them quickly. Tonight can bring lots of fun and excitement to you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Try to get your visionary ideas done to a practical and workable level today. Buy some charming gift for your mate which will be appreciated.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get in touch with that older person you know today if you want to attain some personal longing with ease.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY APRIL 14, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Think over how you can make today brighter by more progressive methods and do not branch off in different directions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Plan how to best combine past experience with current undertakings today so that you get the greatest success for later tonight.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Follow your intuition and you know how best to realise your fondest ambitions and desires. Be more willing to meet the right people today.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get in touch with bigwigs today and state your aims and desires for your success and gain their favours.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Early plan tonight's tasks as well as today's labours and then all will flow along smoothly. Show appreciation for fellow associates ideas.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day for seeing persons you like at the right places today and gain benefits thereby. Don't lose your temper with anyone.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Home is your best bet today where you can talk over tonight's events with your loved ones. Invite important individuals into your home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Early today attend meetings where the highest percepts are taught, prescribe and have fellowship with congenial friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take time today to study your monetary status and see the best way to improve it. Talk over your ambitions with an expert.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Early today plan how to improve your health, wealth and romantic interests. Know what influential persons it is best to meet with.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a fine day for meditating and then gaining the benefits which are rightfully yours, and plan for greater things tonight.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be with those who can assist you in social circles today and gain their cooperation quickly. Join a club which is worthwhile.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

ADB to promote 'growth triangles' in Asia

MANILA (AFP) — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is to encourage greater economic cooperation among Asian countries, helping them to form "growth triangles," the bank said in its annual report published here Wednesday.

The Manila-based ADB said that this would involve educating Asian nations on the potential of such regional groupings, identifying suitable projects and financing some key projects to ensure success.

The ADB said that rapid growth in the region, together with growing intra-regional trade and investment as well as economic liberalisation, had made cooperation more likely.

It said these groupings were part of a "third wave" of regional cooperation following a first wave, which saw the creation of the European Community in 1958, and a second wave that led to the formation of the European Union and the North American Free Trade Association in the 1980s and early 1990s.

The ADB cited the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which is soon to become a free trade area, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum as examples of groupings in the region.

The ADB said other emerging groupings were the Greater Mekong Subregion, the Southern China Growth Triangle, the Tumen River Area Development Programme and the East ASEAN Growth Area (EAGA).

Such growth triangles need not be set up by governments but could emerge as "a market and private sector-driven arrangement," the ADB said.

An example was the so-called Southern China triangle encompassing Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Chinese provinces of Fujian and Guangdong.

The Greater Mekong Subregion, which groups Burma,

Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Yunnan province of China, gets ADB financing for a comprehensive study of the area's prospects.

The bank has supported Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand growth triangle and is considering a similar study for the EAGA, which includes Brunei and nearby areas of the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The ADB said that "support for regional economic activities depends on the development priorities," of the developing member countries but it also drew up guidelines for such support.

Among these guidelines were the requirement that these groupings be congruent with the global trade and investment liberalisation under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and help strengthen these nations' ability to compete internationally.

They should also be "financially and administratively feasible and sustainable."

contacts with those members to reach an agreement.

In its annual report, the AMF put arrears by member states at around \$640 million, nearly half the fund's paid-up capital.

Iraq, a founding member of the fund, owned nearly \$267.5 million while arrears by Sudan stood at \$250.7 million and by Somalia at \$121.8 million. Three other former defaulters, Mauritania, Syria and Yemen have settled their dues.

AMF sources ruled out an early solution to the problem as Iraq's coffers have been hit by crippling sanctions imposed by the United Nations just after its 1990 invasion of neighbouring Kuwait. Years of civil war have also taken their toll on Sudan and Somalia.

The AMF, with a capital of around \$1.3 billion, was created in 1976 with the primary aim of tackling balance of payment deficits in member states through providing soft loans.

It has started to focus on technical assistance and reforms in the past few years after the shortfalls persisted.

The AMF's lending activity was badly hurt by the arrears problem and the alleged embezzlement of around \$80 million by its former chairman, Usaid Hashem, a former Iraqi planning minister, and his aides.

Such problems have also forced the fund to build up an emergency reserve, which stood at around \$210 million at the end of 1993.

AMF suspends membership of Iraq, Sudan and Somalia

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the main financial organisation in the region, confirmed Wednesday it had suspended the membership of Iraq, Sudan and Somalia for not paying outstanding debts.

The Abu Dhabi-based fund said its governing board, which comprises finance ministers and central bank governors from the 22-member Arab League, discussed the countries' defaults at a meeting in Muscat.

"Regarding the default issue, the board agreed that suspension of their membership will continue until the problem is resolved," it said in a statement from its Abu Dhabi headquarters. "The board also agreed to pursue

contacts with those members to reach an agreement.

In its annual report, the AMF put arrears by member states at around \$640 million, nearly half the fund's paid-up capital.

Iraq, a founding member of the fund, owned nearly \$267.5 million while arrears by Sudan stood at \$250.7 million and by Somalia at \$121.8 million. Three other former defaulters, Mauritania, Syria and Yemen have settled their dues.

AMF sources ruled out an early solution to the problem as Iraq's coffers have been hit by crippling sanctions imposed by the United Nations just after its 1990 invasion of neighbouring Kuwait. Years of civil war have also taken their toll on Sudan and Somalia.

The AMF, with a capital of around \$1.3 billion, was created in 1976 with the primary aim of tackling balance of payment deficits in member states through providing soft loans.

It has started to focus on technical assistance and reforms in the past few years after the shortfalls persisted.

The AMF's lending activity was badly hurt by the arrears problem and the alleged embezzlement of around \$80 million by its former chairman, Usaid Hashem, a former Iraqi planning minister, and his aides.

Such problems have also forced the fund to build up an emergency reserve, which stood at around \$210 million at the end of 1993.

The European Union is also sceptical about the bank idea.

The Arab League opposes

UAE opposes projects with Israel, setting up M.E. bank

MUSCAT (R) — The United Arab Emirates Wednesday told a financial conference that setting up joint projects with Israel would be more dangerous for Arabs than Israel's deployment of nuclear weapons.

"Since the establishment of Israel, it has been looking at integrating its economy with the countries of the region

through joint projects," said UAE Finance and Industry Minister Ahmad Bin Humaid Al Tayar. "Israel's achievement of this goal would be more dangerous than its own weapons of mass destruction and nuclear warheads."

Mr. Tayar was addressing the annual meeting of Arab finance and economy ministers and central bank gov-

ernors who head the Arab League's main financial and economic funds.

He urged Arab states to "look for the basis of a clear Arab position from these (Israeli goals) and the aims behind them."

Mr. Tayar reiterated his country's strong objections to setting up \$5 billion Middle East development bank, the

focus of an Middle East economic summit planned for Amman in October.

"The Arab World does not need a bank that would include Israel... the aim of such a bank would not be the development of the Arab countries because this is the last thing Israel would work for," he said.

Oman's deputy prime

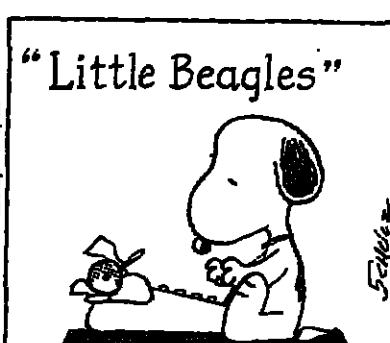
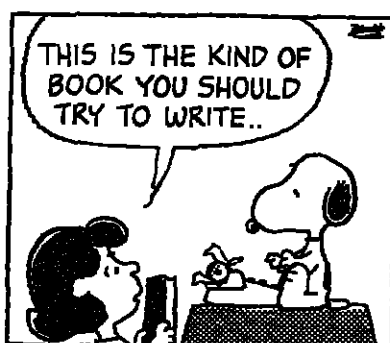
minister for financial and economic affairs, Qais Bin Abdul Monim Al Zawawi, Tuesday opened the meeting with a warning that Arab states should consider ways to boost inter-Arab development to confront growing international economic blocs and the idea of setting up the Middle East bank.

The Arab League opposes

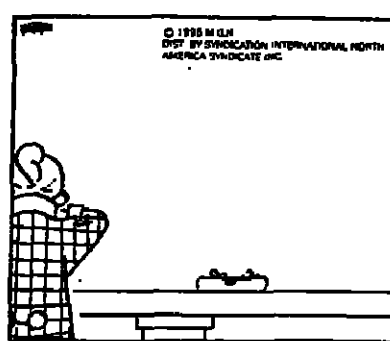
formation of such a bank, seen by the United States and Israel as one of the dividends of the Middle East peace process. The league has urged member states to form their own regional economic bloc first.

The European Union is also sceptical about the bank idea.

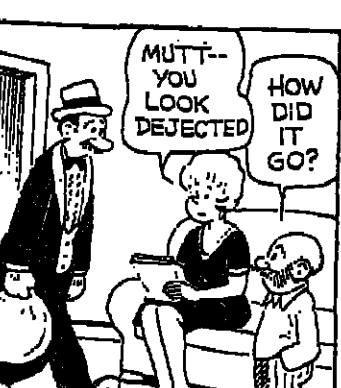
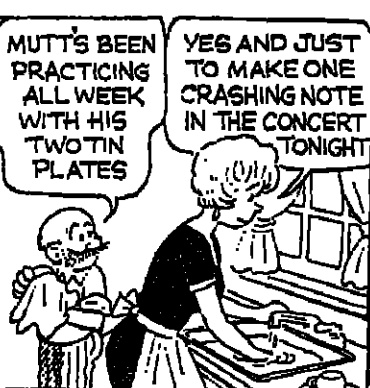
Peanuts



Andy Capp



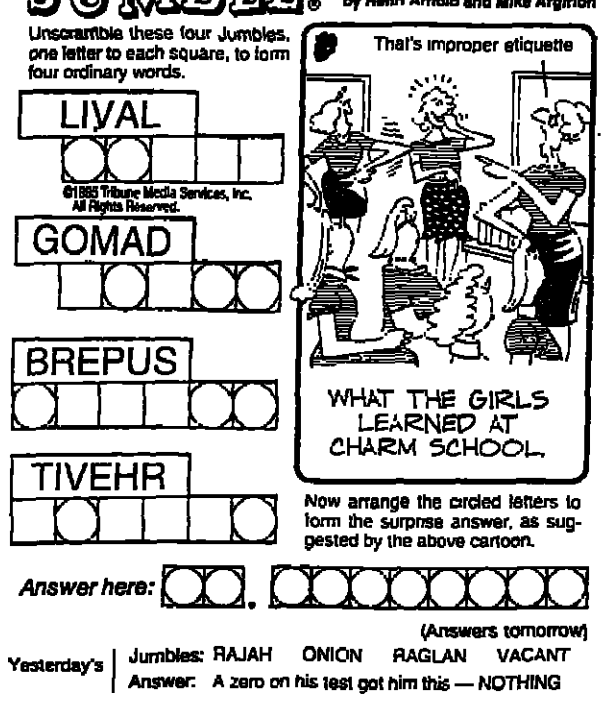
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



THE Daily Crossword



Central bank governor invites big, 'good' foreign banks to Jordan

By P. V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Nabulsi has dismissed as unfounded fears in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) that a sought-for capital raise of commercial banks would lead to a severe liquidity in the bourse.

Dr. Nabulsi, who issued the directive in January to all local banks to increase their capital of JD 20 million from the present minimum of JD 5 million, also promised that the CBJ would adopt a "flexible" approach that would preempt problems in the market.

Dismissing as exaggerated some suggestions that the capital would require more than JD 300 million in funds from the market, Dr. Nabulsi said he expected the figure not to exceed JD 150 million spread over two years.

Under present regulations, local banks should have a minimum capital of JD 5 million. However, most banks have a capital of around JD 10 million, having boosted it themselves as warranted by market needs.

The CBJ was prompted to order the capital increase since it expected Jordanian banks to play a "more solid part" in view of an expected increase in local banking needs and the fact that the entire Middle East is now undergoing a change in the economic undercurrents, he said.

"We do feel that, in general, that except one of two banks that are reasonably well-capitalised, the rest are under-capitalised," Dr. Nabulsi said in an interview.

"For the banks to be more competitive and more capable of meeting the additional banking requirements an increase in their capitals is definitely needed," he said.

However, that does not mean that Jordanian banks are "right now low in the application of the international capital-to-credit requirement," he said.

"On the contrary, in this respect, when we consider the risk-assets-to-capital ratio, they are doing well," he said. "But when taken in the larger context of good, efficient banking, we feel that they are under-capitalised."

Rejecting AFM fears of a liquidity fear in the event of a rush by banks for capital from funds available in the stock exchange, Dr. Nabulsi said:

"I don't think that the stock market has really perceived or grasped the real impact of this in the future capital market."

He noted that the banks had the option of capitalisation of own reserve and mergers, and said the CBJ would also welcome foreign participation in the capital of local banks.

"There is a lot that the present banks can offer on its own in restructuring, there is a lot that can come from their reserves — capitalisation of reserves," he pointed out. "To this extent they will not be going to the market for all their capitalisation needs, a good part of the capital requirement could come from their reserves."

"There are definitely some cases which are being considered for merger," he said in a reference to small banks

which might find it difficult to meet the requirement. "A merger will supplant the need for capital from the market. At the present moment, I have in mind at least four banks which should merge into two banks," He did not identify the banks.

"We are also open to any opportunity of any big foreign banks — good foreign banks — coming into the Jordanian scene and join forces with some of the smaller banks," said Dr. Nabulsi. "We have no objections to some of these small local banks going into merger with the participation of foreign banks."

These options, he said, mean that the actual funds drawn from the market to meet the banking system's capital needs will not be more than JD 150 million spread over two years.

"That fits in well with the present current situation of company investments in terms of primary issues," he said, acknowledging moves from dozens of non-banking firms to raise their own capital.

Dr. Nabulsi pledged that "we will not be insensitive to the market situation, we will adjust the whole thing."

"We will be flexible," he said. "We will not push the banks into the market at the same time."

SAMA: Saudi banks' capital ratio 20%

MANAMA (R) — The capital ratio of Saudi banks is more than double the minimum requirement set by the Basle committee of the Bank for International Settlements, Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) Governor Hamad Al Sayari said.

"Our banks ratio of capital to risk weighted assets is around 20 per cent, or more than double the minimum eight per cent ratio required by the Basle committee," Sheikh Sayari told a two-day economic conference which opened in Bahrain Tuesday.

Sheikh Sayari stressed the need for Saudi banks to continue to attract domestic, regional and international funds.

Though Saudi banks were encouraging customer participation in domestic capital markets by establishing mutual funds "more were needed to reflect the conviction that development should be based primarily upon domestic savings."

Sheikh Sayari said each country in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) must develop its domestic capital markets, a collective priority was to "create a fully integrated regional capital market."

The GCC joins Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

He also recognised the role of international capital. "While encouraging domestic savings and investment we recognise that foreign capital has a role to play. It is important that capital inflows are of a term, and demonstrate a commitment, appropriate to development needs," Sheikh Sayari said.

He said direct investment through joint ventures must continue

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER, AMMAN - JERUSALEM				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 12/04/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.C.	140	26845	192.500	191.750
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	929166	485325	5.030	4.890
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	157491	802359	4.920	4.750
BANK OF JORDAN	200	710	3.470	3.550
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	30900	48890	1.520	1.600
ZEE HOUSING BANK	126750	945199	7.220	7.580
JORDAN KOWAT BANK	1364	3971	2.910	2.920
JORDAN GULF BANK	22305	30886	1.360	1.370
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	2700	9410	3.600	3.500
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	6416	24494	3.820	3.820
BUSINESS BANK	870	3062	3.550	3.520
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	3537	13971	3.950	3.970
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	58688	72615	1.250	1.230
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	123491	215389	1.690	1.770
BANKS SECTOR	1464033	7061167	INDEX NUMBER: 126.30	CHANGE: +0.045
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	7900	22135	2.820	2.790
BOLY LAND INSURANCE	1181	3071	2.600	2.600
AL-NISR AL-ARABI INSURANCE	1570	7222	4.750	4.600
INSURANCE SECTOR	10651	32427	INDEX NUMBER: 136.21	CHANGE: +0.021
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	7800	12982	1.650	1.650
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	33600	52207	1.560	1.550
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	99722	717998	7.200	7.200
LEIB DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY	200	708	3.990	3.940
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	7468	50459	6.750	6.800
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	152	1079	7.200	7.100
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS / NEW	4900	34300	7.300	7.000
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	2250	6700	3.000	2.960
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	6050	13322	2.150	2.260
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	500	550	1.130	1.100
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1369	1351	1.020	1.010
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	113500	306951	2.680	2.610
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	5750	19223	3.330	3.350
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	2000	2500	1.300	1.250
SERVICES SECTOR	285251	1219869	INDEX NUMBER: 140.98	CHANGE: +0.154
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	13242	40688	3.060	3.080
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	1200	3060	2.550	2.550
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	460	4304	9.330	9.380
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	4500	16263	3.600	3.600
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	2465	8300	3.300	3.300
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	12520	61002	3.990	4.020
JORDAN DAIRY	5300	13038	2.460	2.460
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	300	541	2.700	2.700
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1000	2999	2.850	2.850
SPINNING & WEAVING	8850	22585	2.580	2.670
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	200	496	2.500	2.480
DAR AL DUA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1000	7952	7.980	7.970
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	3000	2790	.950	.930
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	3700	2462	.670	.670
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	49900	79337	1.590	1.570
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5700	14187	2.600	2.530
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	500	2500	4.860	5.000
JORDAN ROCKWELL INDUSTRIES	100	119	1.190	1.190
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	500	2100	4.200	4.200
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY	100	67	2.680	2.670
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	100	161	1.700	1.610
ARAB CENTER FOR FARM. & CHEMICALS	1000	2280	2.300	2.280
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1550	5338	3.460	3.460
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	5960	11891	2.000	1.990
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	123362	298560	INDEX NUMBER: 120.87	CHANGE: +0.107
GRAND TOTAL	1883307	8612023	INDEX NUMBER: 145.85	CHANGE: +0.032
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		178089		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		230052		

The tomato: Jordan's red gold

★ ACCORDING to an agricultural engineer, Jordan has achieved an international record in tomato production and is number one in the region. Speaking during an exhibition of farm products, the engineer pointed out that European and U.S. markets prefer Jordanian tomatoes and that Italy alone imports 15,000 tonnes of Jordanian tomatoes every year.

Another engineer said tomato was a strategic Jordanian product and there was a need to set up plants to produce tomato paste as high demand for the product is pushing up its price on the international level. Other visitors of the exhibition described the tomato as "Jordan's red gold" (Al Ra'i).

★ FINANCE MINISTER Basel Jaradeh decided to set up a customs office in the Zarqa area to supervise entry of fresh and refrigerated produce to the free zone (Al Dusstour).

★ THE MINISTRY of Tourism, in cooperation with the private sector, will manage the Amman Hotel Training College and transform it to a regional academy for tourism training. Arrangements for this new approach are expected to be completed before the end of June to enable the academy start its activities at the beginning of the new scholastic year in autumn (Al Ra'i).

★ AN ANNOUNCEMENT by the Municipality of Greater Amman (MoGA) inviting bids to acquire stores at the new central vegetables market has angered wholesalers of agricultural products at the present market. The wholesalers and middlemen claim that MoGA should give them stores at the new market free of charge in replacement of the stores they have now at the present market. MoGA is demanding a fixed annual rent of JD 2,500 for all stores at the new market, which is situated in Juweideh, behind the grain silos. In addition to key money to be determined by bids (Al Dusstour).

★ NER PROFIT at the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company plunged drastically from JD 4.11 million in 1993 to JD 117,000 in 1994. The gross profit from sales dropped 97.2 per cent from JD 6.7 million in 1993 to JD 3.63 last year. The board of directors did not recommend distributing any dividends. The annual report indicated that the company has reached the limit of expansion and has turned to controlling spending (Al Ra'i).

★ THE JORDAN Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation is inviting all Jordanian exporters to contact it if they wish to display samples of their products at the Moscow International Trade Fair to be held next month (Al Ra'i).

★ THE JORDAN Islamic Bank for Finance and Investment boosted net profits by 32.1 per cent last year to JD 3.1 million compared to JD 2.34 in 1993. The board of directors is recommending to the general assembly the distribution of JD 1.75 million in dividends at 12 per cent. The bank's annual report shows that total deposits amounted to JD 462 million at the end of last year compared to JD 421 million in the previous of the total deposits, foreign currency deposits amounted to the equivalent of JD 107.5 million in both years.

Financial Markets			
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	New York Close 11/12/95	Tokyo Close 12/12/95	
Swiss Franc	1.591	1.5915	
Deutsche Mark	1.491	1.4925	
Swiss Franc	1.592	1.5925	
French Franc	4.8875	4.8915	
Japanese Yen	11.57	11.55	
European Currency Unit	1.5158	1.5125	

Eurocurrency Interest Rates			
Date: 12/4/1995			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.00	6.12
Swiss Franc	5.87	6.37	6.64
Deutsche Mark	4.31	4.37	4.50
Swiss Franc	5.12	3.18	3.25
French Franc	7.43	7.25	6.81
Japanese Yen	1.62	1.50	1.42
European Currency Unit	6.54	6.34	6.66

Precious Metals			
Date: 12/4/1995			
Metal	USD/Gm	JD/Gm	JD/Gm
Gold	389.60	7.60	5.33
Silver			0.100

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin			
Date: 12/4/1995			
Currency	BA	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.6870	0.6890	
Swiss Franc	1.0908	1.0963	
Deutsche Mark	0.4884	0.4908	
Swiss Franc	0.5926	0.5956	
French Franc	0.1491	0.1494	
Japanese Yen	0.8919	0.8960	
Dutch Guilder	0.4361	0.4383	
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000	
Italian Lira	0.0298	0.0300	
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000	

Other Currencies			
Date: 12/4/1995			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8100	1.8140	
Lebanese Lira	0.041455	0.041455	
Saudi Riyal	0.1824	0.1833	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3600	
Qatari Riyal	0.1876	0.1895	
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2080	
Omani Riyal	1.7710	1.7950	
UAE Dirham	0.1862	0.1860	
Greek Drachma	0.31550	0.31645	
Cypriot Pound	1.4605	1.5504	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3806/16	Canadian dollar
	1.4018/28	Deutschemarks
	1.5690/00	Dutch guilders
	1.1540/50	Swiss francs
	28.81/85	Belgian francs
	4.8930/80	French francs
	1729.64/6	Italian lire
	83.91/01	Japanese yen
	7.3375/75	Swedish crowns
	6.2720/70	Norwegian crowns
	5.5107/57	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5902/12	
One ounce of gold	\$389.80/390.30	

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

FOR INVESTMENT & BUSINESS OFFICES & SHOPS FOR SALE

In Wadi Saqra
100 sq.m. — 400 sq.m.
Central heating and air-condition.

For more details call:
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel. 810605/810608
/810620, Fax: 810528

A SECURE Hotel Swiflyah

Turino

FLAT O.TEL
SECURITY
HOSPITALITY
GASTRONOMY

All Suites Hotel
FLAT O.TEL

الجميع الفندق المكيه
المؤمقه مكنى جندا
863944 - 816690

Cheers Cafe

Hamburgers + Pizzas
ELITE CAFE
Swiflyah

816690
Al Turino

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service

Develop your color film at our shop and get:

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 60402
Swiflyah tel: 823891

La Coquette

FRENCH CUISINE
ENJOY THE NEW MENU

SEAFOOD
LUNCH DINNER
7 DAYS A WEEK

68004 / 4

EURO DOLLAR RENT A CAR

Make Car Rental Simple

Shmeisani
Tel: 693399

REAL ESTATE RENTALS

You've Seen The Best
Now Try The Best

Widest Selection Most Reasonable Rates
Newer, Cleaner, More Lavishly Furnished or unfurnished Villas and Apartments

FULL SERVICE REAL ESTATE ORGANIZATION

Tel. 681113 - 688816

RENT A RELIABLE CAR

AT A RELIABLE PRICE

TEL: 819676
ABDOUN

SHENWAN GARDENS CHINESE RESTAURANT

Typical Chinese Foods
Stuffed Chinese Chicks

Open 12:30 - 2:30 & 6:00 - Midnight

Take away is available
Shg Al-Arab Street
Un Unhish Commercial Centre
Tel: 681174
Once Tasted Always Loved

MING-SHING Chinese Restaurant

The Best Cooking, Best Service,
Best Atmosphere in Amman
Deir Ghar - American Embassy Str. near Baytuna Housing Estate

Open from:
12 noon - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - 11:30 p.m.
Tel: 651858

JON'S SALON

Ladies Hair Design

English Speaking Staff

Available for Appointment Only
Tel 965986
Amman Club House

Duraclean

"Flower Fresh" cleaning for homes and businesses

CARPET CLEANING
FURNITURE CLEANING

TEL 836692

Bonita INN

Restaurant & Tapas

Open Daily from 12a.m. - 12p.m.

Jebel Amman, 3rd circle
Tel. 61 50 61

Turino Turino

Haute Cuisine Italo-Med

THE BEST FOOD INGREDIENTS IN THE WORLD
THE MOST FASHIONABLE RESTAURANT IN AMMAN

Big Claims - Real Stories!

LOVELY BAND: GUITAR + PIANO
JD 10.00 (+ +) Tel: 863944

FOR YOUR Advertisement In Jordan Times

Call tel: 667171 ext. 223

FOR RENT

Deluxe Villas & Apartments in Amman

SANABEL REAL ESTATE
Tel. 864230
Fax. 864231

FOR YOUR Advertisement In Jordan Times

Call tel: 667171 ext. 223

Olaf's

Precision Tailoring & Alterations

ENGLISH SPEAKING STAFF

Swiflyah - Above Club House
Tel: 861225

CRYSTAL

Quality Furnished Suites
One and Two Bedrooms
Reasonable Rates For Short or Long Stay

5th Circle
674563/674551

DAJANI'S Unique gold & gems jewelry.

Real Madrid, Olympiakos reach European basketball final

ZARAGOZA, Spain (AP) — Olympiakos got 27 points from Eddie Johnson to reach its second straight championship game of the European final four with a 58-52 semifinal win Tuesday over archrival Panathinaikos, setting up Thursday's title game against Spanish side Real Madrid. Real Madrid reached the final with a 62-49 victory over French side Limoges behind 21 points for Arvidas Sabonis. Olympiakos, losers last year by two points in the final to another Spanish club — Joventut Badalona — will be after its first European title.

Real Madrid has won seven, more than any other club, but hasn't won since 1980.

The Greeks will find a familiar foe on the Real Madrid bench — Serb coach Zelimir Obradovic. Obradovic won last year coaching Joventut and is trying to win his third title with three different teams. He won in 1992 with the Yugoslav team Partizan.

Olympiakos has 6-foot-7 (2-metre) Johnson to thank for its trip to the final, just as it was 7-4 (2.2-metre) Sabonis who was the clear difference for Real Madrid.

Johnson scored 18 of his 27 points in the second half. He kept Olympiakos in the game early in that half, scoring 15 of his club's first 20 points as Panathinaikos threatened to pull away.

Yugoslav 6-10 centre (2.1-metre) Zarko Paspalj topped Panathinaikos with 17 points, but only four in the second half as Johnson was taking charge.

It was a terrible shooting night for all four teams. Real Madrid shot 40 per cent from the field. Limoges managed 32 — and Olympiakos and Panathinaikos were just as bad at 33 and 28 per cent, in that order.

Real Madrid stifled Limoges with man-to-man defence and forced it into one of its worst shooting games in recent memory. It also held high-scoring American Michael Young to 9 points on 2 of 11 shooting from the field. Limoges was led by American Tim Kempton with 12.

The win for Real Madrid made up for a 10-point loss to Limoges in the 1993 final four semifinals. Limoges went on to win the title.

Morceli may skip World Championships

PARIS (AP) — Algerian track star Noureddine Morceli, at odds again with IAAF chief Primo Nebiolo, is considering skipping this summer's World Championships.

In an interview Tuesday with the French sport daily L'Equipe, Morceli said he may stay away from the Aug. 4-13 event in Goteborg, Sweden.

"We'll see. It's not sure," he said. "With the world championships every two years, the competition loses its importance. Every four years would be better. The World Championships have become just medals; it's not like the Olympics."

"But you have to think about your country, and mine is very important to me. If I compete, it will be for my country, not for money."

Two years ago, Morceli threatened to boycott the World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, over a lack of prize money. But he agreed to compete at the last minute after pressure from Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

"I'm not waging war against the IAAF, but for the rights of the athletes," Morceli said. "In Stuttgart, many athletes receive money under the table, especially those from the Santa Monica Track Club. And there were many who didn't want to compete, but who showed up at the last minute."

The Santa Monica Club features Carl Lewis, Leroy Burrell, Mike Marsh and Johnny Gray.

Asked what finally persuaded him to compete in Stuttgart, Morceli said, "we made an agreement with the boss," referring to Nebiolo.

Morceli's brother, Abdelhamid, and manager Farid Boucinia said the two sides had reached a verbal agreement in Stuttgart on financial matters. Without giving details, they said the agreement had not yet been fulfilled by the IAAF.

"We might go back to see Nebiolo and IAAF competition director Sandro Giovannelli to see if they keep their promise," Boucinia said. "We tried to meet him last week in Monaco; he told us he would be back in two minutes, and we never saw him again."

Nebiolo announced last month that the IAAF will start offering prize money at its major championships after the 1996 Olympics. In Goteborg, as in Stuttgart, winners will receive Mercedes cars instead of money.

Morceli won the 1,500 metres at the last two World Championships. He holds world records in the 1,500, the mile and the 3,000.

He said his ultimate goal is to break world records in every event from 800 metres to 10,000 metres.

"It will be very difficult, but that's what challenges are about," he said.



U.S. tennis player Michael Chang (left) signs autographs to Japanese fans after a mixed doubles charity match in the tournament organized to raise money to help Kobe's earthquake victims (AFP photo)

Agassi begins defence of No. 1 status No mercy from Chang in Japan Open

TOKYO (Agencies) — Andre Agassi got off to a strong defence of his new number one ranking with an easy victory over fellow American Tommy Ho in the second round of the Japan Open on Wednesday.

Agassi, who wrestled the top spot from his Davis Cup teammate Pete Sampras on Monday, won 6-3, 6-2.

"It feels pretty good," he said. "The important thing is to maintain it and finish the year number one. But even if I've been number one for hours, it feels very special."

"To be number one is the accomplishment, but without the rivalry I think it's not quite special. To pass Pete based on me beating him was what made this so nice for me."

Agassi said his two victories against Sampras this season "made being number one special. He beat Sampras in the Melbourne and Key Biscayne finals while lost to him in the Indiana Wells final this season for an 8-7 head-to-head record."

His groundstrokes, which brought him the U.S. and Australian Open, totally outclassed Ho on the centre court here.

"I had a little time to adjust and I'm still struggling a bit with my lower back, but I think I felt good in the first match," said Agassi.

Michael Chang, who played a charity match two days ago to raise funds for victims of January's Kobe earthquake, showed no mercy to Shuzo Matsuoka.

"I felt like Shuzo was a little bit more nervous today than before," said the American after winning 6-4, 6-2.

"One of the reasons was maybe he was playing in his home country with a crowd behind him and he wants to come up and do so well. But still, it was a tough match," said the second seed.

Australian qualifier Scott Draper, who scored his biggest victory in beating American Jonathan Stark on Monday, took another step forward by beating David Prinosil of Germany 7-6 (7/5), 6-4.

Wayne Ferreira of South Africa coasted to a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Dimitri Poliakov of Ukraine while American former world number one Jim Courier edged past Anders Jarryd of Sweden 6-4, 4-6, 7-5.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong-based Tang Min pulled off the biggest win of her career when she beat fourth seed Mana Endo in the second round of the Japan Open tennis Wednesday.

The 24-year-old from Hunan, who left China in November 1993, came from behind to score a 4-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-3 victory over Japan's number three player.

"It was my biggest win," said Tang, playing only her second major tournament. She is ranked 189th in the world against Endo's 37th.

"Before, in China, it was not so easy. Now I'm learning more technically and mentally."

Endo, who reached the U.S. Open fourth round last year, said, "She was aggressive. I had so many chances to beat her and I couldn't get the chance. She had only a few chances to beat me and she got it."

Tang now faces sixth seed Yone Kamio of Japan or Leventi Perret of the United States.

Rain delayed the start of matches on the outside courts.

Krajicek loses to unseeded player

Defending champion Richard Krajicek of Holland got knocked out by unseeded Spaniard Roberto Carretero 7-5, 6-2 in the second day of the \$900,000 Conde de Godo ATP tennis tournament Tuesday.

The 1993 Godo winner and No. 8 seed Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine was eliminated by tournament veteran Javier Sanchez of Spain 6-1, 1-6, 6-0.

Sanchez's brother Emilio also won, beating No. 11 seed Jacco Eltingh of Holland 6-4, 6-4. The Sanchez's sister, women's No. 2 ranked Arantxa, was in the audience to watch the play on the Royal Tennis Club's clay courts.

Ninth-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria defeated Jordi Burillo of Spain 4-6, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2. The 27-year-old Austrian's victory came two days after he won the \$575,000 Estoril Open for his 19th clay court title. He holds the most clay court victories since the ATP Tour began in 1990.

No 5 ATP ranked and third-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia advanced, defeating Richard Fromberg of Austria 6-2, 6-7 (6-8), 6-2.

Twelfth-seeded Alex Corretja of Spain was knocked out by unseeded Thierry Champion of France 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.

No. 1 seed Pete Sampras of the United States, who slipped to No. 2 in international rankings Monday, was eliminated from doubles play. Javier Sanchez and Luis Lobo of Argentina defeated Sampras and his partner Paul Annacone of Italy.

Garrison-Jackson upset

Zina Garrison-Jackson wanted to put on a good show in her final tournament before her hometown fans, but the fourth seed instead was upset at the Houston women's tennis championships on Tuesday.

Garrison-Jackson, who plans to retire at the end of the year, saved two match points before losing her second-round match to south African Joanne Kruger 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2.

Fifth seed and defending champion Sabine Hack played the kind of match Garrison-Jackson had hoped to play, crushing fellow German Silke Frankl 6-0, 6-2 in 59 minutes in a first-round match.

'Montana will retire next week'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Joe Montana's long-rumoured retirement from professional football likely becomes official next week, the Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday. The newspaper said the quarterback's friends and family will be in San Francisco for the announcement.

Montana, who spent two years with the Kansas City Chiefs after leading the 49ers to four Super Bowl championships, is retiring at age 38 because of aches and pains as well as the wishes of his wife, Jennifer, according to Montana's relatives, the newspaper said.

By retiring next week, Montana would free up his \$2.4 million salary for the Chiefs to use in the National Football League draft April 22-23. Steve Bono would be the likely starter if Montana does retire, with Matt Blundin his backup.

Chiefs spokesman Bob Moore said Tuesday the club wasn't aware Montana had made a decision. General Manager Carl Peterson was out of town for a speaking engagement.

Montana could not be reached for comment and his agent, Tom Condon, did not immediately return a phone call from the Associated Press.

The Times story said relatives from Monongahela, Pennsylvania already have flown to San Francisco to take part in the retirement ceremony.

Montana has one year left on the three-year contract he signed with Kansas City after he was traded by San Francisco and replaced by Steve Young.

Split bids for 1997 World Championships

MONACO (R) — The Croatian city of Split on Wednesday became the seventh and final candidate to replace Mexico city as host for the 1997 World Athletics Championships.

Mexico city pulled out last month because of Mexico's severe economic crisis.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said Split, Rome, Helsinki, Athens, New Delhi and California university town of Stanford had announced bids before the April 10 deadline.

Spain will pick a candidate from three contending cities — Madrid, Seville and Barcelona.

The IAAF council will make its choice at a meeting from May 21-23 in Gothenburg, Sweden, where the 1995 championships will be held in August.

Baseball championship contenders are trading away high-salaried stars to stay financially solvent at the expense of title hopes.

Richer clubs are signing top talent at bargain prices, stretching the gap between strong and weak teams.

And players who averted a salary cap sought by owners are now faced with taking multi-million-dollar pay cuts just to have a job.

Welcome to a new era of Major League Baseball. In the aftermath of a 232-day players' strike, batting averages and strikeout figures are less important than payroll costs and total revenues.

"People are deluding themselves if they think everything is rosy because the strike ended," Montreal Expos president Claude Brochu said. "There is tremendous financial hardship for many clubs. We must get our payrolls in line."

Even though no labor deal was achieved, players ended their walkout last week and will begin practice games Thursday for a shortened season that opens on April 26.

But just when fans were hopeful of seeing their favourites in uniform again, many clubs are dealing away top talent to rivals to offset their part of 700 million dollars in strike losses.

"This budget thing is killing everybody," Minnesota slugger Kirby Puckett said. "It looks like we are liquidating."

"It's a matter of economics now," said Joey Cora, signed cheaply by Seattle after being cut by the Chicago White Sox. "Teams look at salaries, not statistics."

Budgets now mean more than wins.

"Teams with additional revenues from the larger markets are going to spend," Philadelphia owner Bill Giles said. "The competitive balance is going to get worse."

Except the New York Yankees, Atlanta Braves and a handful of other wealthy teams with big-revenue fan support to plunder weak-payroll clubs and dominate the coming season.

"We have the support, so it would not meet our competitive needs or be fair to our fans to sit on our hands," said Jerry McMorris, whose Colorado Rockies own baseball's attendance records.

"There clearly needs to be a mechanism to keep leagues competitive," acting commissioner and Milwaukee owner Bud Selig said.

Juventus defeat Lazio 2-1, advance to Cup finals

TURIN (Agencies) — Star-forward Roberto Baggio converted a penalty kick in second-half injury time Tuesday night to give Juventus of Turin a 2-1 victory against Lazio of Rome and a berth in the Italian Cup finals.

The home victory at Delle Alpi Arena in a second-leg semifinal match added to a 1-0 win by the Turin team in Rome two weeks ago.

La Juve, which is owned and financed by the Agnelli family of auto tycoons, takes on in the Cup finals the winner of the other semifinal round between Parma and Foggia.

Parma tied 1-1 the first-leg game on the road.

Juventus, the current league leader, rallied from a 0-1 first-half deficit after Lazio had to play the entire second half with only 10 players following the expulsion of defender Mauro Bonomi.

The Roman team, fifth in the league standings, earned an unexpected lead in the 15th minute as Juventus commanded play.

A free kick by striker Giuseppe Signori, from about 30 metres (yards), was deflected by the wall into Juventus net.

Midfielder Giancarlo Marocchi scored the equaliser in the 47th minute, kicking in from 8 metres a pass from young teammate Alessandro Del Piero.

Lazio, although one player down, carried out some dangerous counterattacks and Juventus substitute goalie Michelangelo Rampulla made a decisive save in the 89th minute, deflecting onto the post a short-range header by Lazio's defender Roberto Cravero.

Four minutes later, in injury time, flashy winger Angelo Di Livio was grounded in Lazio's area and Baggio converted the penalty with a precise shot to the right of goalie Luca Marchegiani — his former World Cup teammate.

Juventus, upset by cross-town rival Torino in a league match last Sunday, badly missed its injured strikers Gianluca Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli, failing to convert into goals several scoring chances.

The best opportunities were squandered by Baggio, who is not in his best form. Baggio returned to action three weeks ago following a serious knee injury.

Lazio, who started Croat striker Alen Boksic, Dutch midfielder Aron Winter and Argentine defender Antonio Chamot, rested English midfielder Paul Gascoigne, still tired from his first game in one year Sunday.

Gascoigne was long sidelined with a broken leg. Juventus' busy schedule continues Saturday with a

league game against Reggina and a second-leg semifinal of the UEFA Cup against Borussia Dortmund next Tuesday.

Paris St Germain bury Marseille

Paris St Germain drove the nail into Olympique Marseilles' coffin here Tuesday, beating the bankrupt former European champions 2-0 in the French Cup semi-final.

Paris go through to the May 13 final against either Strasbourg or Metz while Marseille resume an empty struggle to stay top of the second division.

Marseille were declared insolvent last week with debts of 240 million francs and as a result were automatically barred from promotion to the top flights.

The club were forcibly relegated last season for fixing a league game only days before they won the European

Klinsmann downs Manchester City; Celtic reach Scottish Cup final

Juergen Klinsmann's header four minutes from the end earned Tottenham a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Manchester City in the English Premier League Tuesday, 48 hours after Spurs were crushed 4-1 by Everton in the FA Cup semifinal.

Another German striker, Uwe Rosler, capitalised on a blunder by Tottenham's Romanian midfielder Gica Popescu to put City ahead after 49 minutes at White Hart Lane.

Three minutes later, midfielder David Howells equalised for Spurs with his first goal of the season. And Klinsmann scored his 26th of the season turning in a free kick from Darren Anderton.

The result kept Tottenham in seventh place but prevented City from moving up

European Soccer

Cup against AC Milan in May 1993.

The win against Paris would have offered hope of a money-spinning return to Europe in the Cup Winners' Cup next year.

Without the added income they face another year in the second division and may be forced to sell-off their best players to stay alive.

Goals from Brazilian Ricardo in the fourth minute and Liberian George Weah, who flew in from Africa earlier in the day after playing for his country against Togo, in the 33rd sealed Marseille's fate.

Some 150 fans were arrested and four police injured in clashes around the ground before the kick-off of the high-risk match between the traditional rivals.

Marseille have won the cup 10 times to three wins for Paris.

five places to 11th.

In another Premier League game, Queens Park Rangers moved up one place to eighth by gaining a 1-0 victory at last place Ipswich. Les Ferdinand scored after 68 minutes.

Glasgow Celtic took a major step closer to winning its first title for six seasons when it downed Hibernian 3-1 in a Scottish Cup semifinal replay. It will meet division one Airdrie in the final May 27.

Willie Falconer and John Collins gave Celtic a 2-0 lead by half time before Keith Wright pulled a goal back for Hibs. Eight minutes from time, Phil O'Donnell's header clinched victory for Celtic.

With Glasgow rival Rangers winning the league title for the past six seasons and on the verge of winning the championship yet again, Celtic has been in the shadow of its neighbour.

English Premiership Standings									
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
Blackburn	36	25	7	4	73	30	82		
Man Utd	36	22	8	6	66	24	74		
Newcastle	36	19	10	7	60	37	67		
Nottingham Forest	37	18	10	9	64	40	64		
Liverpool	34	17	10	7	57	28	61		
Leeds	36	16	11	9	49	33	59		
Tottenham	35	15	10	10	57	47	55		
QPR	36	15	8	13	55	52	53		
Wimbledon	36	15	7	14	46	58	52		
Sheff Wed	37	12	10	15	45	53	46		
Aston Villa	36	10	13	13	47	48	43		
Arseanal	36	11	10	15	42	44	43		
Coventry	36	10	13	13	37	54	43		
Chelsea	35	10	12	13	42	48	42		
Norwich	37	10	12	15	34	47	42		
Man City	36	10	11	15	45	56	41		
Southampton	34	8	15	11	49	57	39		
Everton	35	9	12	14	38	48	39		
Crystal Palace	34	9	11	14	25	35	38		
West Ham	35	10	8	17	34	45	38		
Leicester	37	5	9	23	40	71	24		
Ipswich	36	6	5	25	31	81	23		

Post-strike money crunch haunts sport

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Baseball championship contenders are trading away high-salaried stars to stay financially solvent at the expense of title hopes.

Richer clubs are signing top talent at bargain prices, stretching the gap between strong and weak teams.

And players who averted a salary cap sought by owners are now faced with taking multi-million-dollar pay cuts just to have a job.

Welcome to a new era of Major League Baseball. In the aftermath of a 232-day players' strike, batting averages and strikeout figures are less important than payroll costs and total revenues.

"People are deluding themselves if they think everything is rosy because the strike ended," Montreal Expos president Claude Brochu said. "There is tremendous financial hardship for many clubs. We must get our payrolls in line."

Even though no labor deal was achieved, players ended their walkout last week and will begin practice games Thursday for a shortened season that opens on April 26.

But just when fans were hopeful of seeing their favourites in uniform again, many clubs are dealing away top talent to rivals to offset their part of 700 million dollars in strike losses.

"This budget thing is killing everybody," Minnesota slugger Kirby Puckett said. "It looks like we are liquidating."

"It's a matter of economics now," said Joey Cora, signed cheaply by Seattle after being cut by the Chicago White Sox. "Teams look at salaries, not statistics."

Budgets now mean more than wins.

"Teams with additional revenues from the larger markets are going to spend," Philadelphia owner Bill Giles said. "The competitive balance is going to get worse."

Except the New York Yankees, Atlanta Braves and a handful of other wealthy teams with big-revenue fan support to plunder weak-payroll clubs and dominate the coming season.

Yankees, Atlanta Braves and a handful of other wealthy teams with big-revenue fan support to plunder weak-payroll clubs and dominate the coming season.

"We have the support, so it would not meet our competitive needs or be fair to our fans to sit on our hands," said Jerry McMorris, whose Colorado Rockies own baseball's attendance records.

"There clearly needs to be a mechanism to keep leagues competitive," acting commissioner and Milwaukee owner Bud Selig said.

Ironically, by failing to get the salary cap they wanted, owners pushed themselves into such a crisis that they had to cut back salary offers — something their competitive natures had not allowed.

"What the owners are doing now should probably have been done years ago without asking us to fix the problem," said Oakland pitcher Dave Stewart, whose million-dollar salary this year is 2.5 million dollars below his 1994 rate.

"We all knew it would happen, but never spoke about it," Wetteland said. "It was like the deadly secret."

Brochu's choice came down to keeping a shell of a club or none at all.

"Everybody in severe financial problems because of the strike has been forced to make moves they probably would rather not have made," Florida Marlins' general manager Dave Dombrowski said. "Maybe clubs will learn from it."

Education has been painful for Brochu and his Expos. They had baseball's best record when players walked out August 12, shutting down the 1994 title chase for good.

Montreal spent five years building talent through development clubs for that suc-

cess. Now those players stars and Brochu can no longer afford their salaries.

Speedy Marquis Grissom was traded to Atlanta. Top pitcher Ken Hill was dealt to St. Louis. Star relief pitcher John Wetteland is now a New York Yankee.

"We all knew it would happen, but never spoke about it," Wetteland said. "It was like the deadly secret."

Brochu's choice came down to keeping a shell of a club or none at all.

T O D A Y	Cinema Tel.: 634144	Cinema Tel.: 699238	Cinema Tel.: 677420	Cinema Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
	Tom Hanks in Forrest Gump Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15	Fifi Abdo & Kamal Shinnawi Wahid Seif.....in PENALTY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' Comedian star: Adel Imam — Bakhit & Andadileh Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 CONCORD '2' Jean-Claude Van Damm STREET FIGHTER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00	Musa Hijazin "Sum'a" in the political satire Hi Citizen written and directed by Mohammed Al Shawaqia daily on 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday — Halta Al Agha in the children's play ☆☆ Sa'di's Return ☆☆	Shows of "Qirbeh Makhzouqa" will be stopped from now until further notice.	Presents: The political satire: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please cal 625155 The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sunday.

Blazers end San Antonio's 15-game winning streak

SAN ANTONIO (R) — Just when it seemed the Spurs would never lose another game, the Trail Blazers brought them down to earth with a humbling 91-71 rout.

Clifford Robinson scored 23 points and Otis Thorpe scored six of his 16 points in a 16-2 third-quarter run as Portland halted San Antonio's club-record 15-game winning streak.

David Robinson had 21 points and 12 rebounds and Sean Elliott added 15 for the Spurs, who were held to their lowest point total in team history. The Spurs also shot a franchise-low 31 per cent (23-of-75) from the field.

Thorpe, who also had 10 rebounds, helped the Blazers turn a 48-46 lead with 6:48 remaining in the third quarter into a 64-48 bulge heading into the final period.

The Spurs would get no closer than 15 points thereafter.

"We were bad tonight," said Robinson. "Nothing went right. We did a lot of dumb things. Offensively we didn't do anything we wanted to do. It was bad all the way around."

In Houston, the Dallas Mavericks and Rockets combined for over 300 points in a double overtime thriller.

Jason Kidd recorded his third triple-double in a week with 38 points, including eight 3-pointers, 10 assists, and 11 rebounds to lead the Mavericks to a 156-147 victory over Houston.

Rik Smits scored 26 points and Derrick McKey added 13 for the Rockets, who fell two games behind New York for the second-best record in the Eastern Conference.

In Orlando, Shaquille O'Neal scored 30 points and grabbed 18 rebounds as the Magic pulled away for a 107-90 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Dana Barros led the 76ers with 27 points and extended his NBA record of consecutive games with a 3-pointer to 52.

In Chicago, Michael Jordan scored 25 points and Toni Kukoc added 18 as the Bulls held off the Indiana Pacers 96-89.

Chicago nearly blew a 19-point second-half lead as Indiana twice got within two points in the fourth quarter.

But the Bulls held on to open a two-game lead over Cleveland for the fifth playoff position in the east.

Rik Smits scored 26 points and Derrick McKey added 13 for the Rockets, who fell two games behind New York for the second-best record in the Eastern Conference.

In Orlando, Shaquille O'Neal scored 30 points and grabbed 18 rebounds as the Magic pulled away for a 107-90 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

RESULTS			
Orlando	107	Cleveland	90
Atlanta	110	Philadelphia	106
Chicago	96	Indiana	89
Milwaukee	114	Detroit	109 (OT)
Portland	91	San Antonio	71
Utah	100	LA Lakers	93
New York	112	Miami	99
Phoenix	96	Seattle	90
Dallas	156	Houston	147 (2OT)
Sacramento	117	LA Clippers	85

Furnished Apartment For Rent In Um Uthaina
Consists of three bedrooms, L-shaped dining room and salon, two bathrooms, independent central heating, telephone. Luxurious furniture. Suitable for diplomats.
Please call tel. 820259

FOR RENT
TWO BEDROOM FURNISHED FLAT
FOURTH FLOOR - JABAL AMMAN
400 JD PER MONTH
TEL. 642855

VILLA FOR RENT
Newly built villa, super deluxe finishing, private garages, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, storage area, all facilities available.
Location: swefieh, opposite the New Modern Schools, Suitable for diplomatic mission or residence.
For more information call 75174 from 9 AM - 2 PM, 4 PM - 5 PM, 727481, 74721

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD
Announces The Invitation To Tender No.: 21F/95
MC announces the invitation to bid of 21F/95 (FOR THE SUPPLY OF WHITE WOOD).
Tender documents are available at MC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 pm. local time Thursday 4th April 1995, application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD (15) for each set of tender documents.
The closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 hours local time Thursday 4th April 1995.
Sameh Madani
Managing Director

Kenyan Safari starts today

NAIROBI (R) — Holder and four-times champion Ian Duncan in a Toyota is the hot favourite for the longest and toughest rally event of the year, Kenya's Safari, which starts on Thursday.

Toyota have not been beaten on the Safari since 1991 and Duncan is expected to have the measure of his Japanese rivals.

Subaru is sending three of its tough Imprezas, for Kenyan hero Patrick Njiru, former British champion Richard Burns and Japanese newcomer Hideaki Miyoshi.

At 2,994 km (1,859 miles), this will be the shortest Safari on record, but it has the most starts — 115 — and a compact route means that competitors have little respite.

Johnson scored 18 points and Charles Barkley added 17 points and 14 rebounds for Phoenix (54-22).

Shawn Kemp scored 27 points and grabbed 15 rebounds and Sam Perkins added 24 for Seattle (53-22), which lost for just the second time in 11 games.

In Utah, Blue Edwards hit a jumper with 2:51 remaining to snap a tie and Karl Malone added a 3-point play to help the Jazz beat the Los Angeles Lakers 100-93.

Malone scored 30 points, John Stockton added 18 and Jeff Hornacek netted 14 for the Jazz, who trail the league-leading Spurs by 2½ games in the Midwest Division.

In Los Angeles, Walt Williams scored 25 points and Mitch Richmond added 24 as the Sacramento Kings routed the Clippers 117-85.

"We can't hide the reality," said coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo. "We miss Romario a lot."

Romario pulled up lame in the 19th minute of a game last Wednesday against Gama of Brasilia for the Brazil Cup, a tournament of state champions. He was replaced by Mazinho.

Doctors at first said it was a minor muscle pull and Romario would be back within a week. But the lesion in his right thigh — his "shooting" muscle — proved to be more serious than suspected.

His return now is scheduled for May 7, when Flamengo faces Vasco da Gama in the last game of the state championship finals.

Meanwhile, his club is counting its losses and struggling to stay on top.

Since arriving from Spain's Barcelona in January for a reported \$4.5 million, Romario has turned things around for Flamengo, Brazil's most popular team. After two mediocre seasons, the club has become the team to beat in Rio.

In March, Flamengo won the traditional Guanabara Cup, a qualifying round for the State Championship finals.

NBA playoffs set for April 27

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Late-season win streaks have made San Antonio and Seattle the clubs to catch with only two weeks remaining before the start of the National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs.

San Antonio, paced by centre David Robinson, have won 15 straight games and lead the league with a 56-18 record. The SuperSonics have won nine of their past 10 to pull ahead of Charles Barkley's Phoenix Suns.

But barring a total collapse, the hot Spurs will enjoy home-court advantage throughout the championship matches that begin April 27.

"I'm excited. I think the playoffs will be fun for us," said Robinson, who averages 27.7 points and 10.8 rebounds a game. "We're focused in practice. We know what we want to accomplish and we have done a lot in a short period of time. We have a group of unselfish guys concerned about winning."

The Spurs, who have won a club-record 36 away games, have taken 12 in a row since NBA rebound leader Dennis Rodman suffered a separated shoulder in a motorcycle accident. Rodman, whose 17.4 rebounds a game are five

more than second-best Dikembe Mutombo, plans to return this week.

"We need Dennis. He's a key part of our team," Robinson said. "I like what we're building here."

The Spurs are making believers out of NBA rivals.

"The Spurs are the number one team in the league right now," Los Angeles Lakers coach Del Harris said.

"David Robinson is the guy who should be making all the commercials. He's the Most Valuable Player in my mind."

Seattle have been sparked by Gary Payton's 20 points a game and Shawn Kemp's 10 rebounds a game. The SuperSonics have risen while the Suns have faltered.

"We're playing well right now," Payton said. "If we are playing this way in the playoffs, we will be tough to beat. But you can't count on a team like Phoenix. We have taken advantage while they were struggling."

Seattle's Phoenix and Utah are fighting for the playoff positions behind the Spurs. The worst among them must face the resurgent Lakers, who have won 15 of their past 20 games. Their 47 victories are 14 more than they managed all of last season.

"We always stay positive," Lakers guard Nick Van Exel said. "After a big loss last year, we had our heads down. This year, we're still joking with each other."

Reigning champion Houston have slumped despite 28 points a game from Hakeem Olajuwon and 22 more from Clyde Drexler, but the Rockets could be dangerous in the playoffs.

Portland will likely grab the seventh western playoff bid while Sacramento, Denver and Dallas battle over the final spot. Denver snuck into the playoffs last year but ousted regular-season kingpin Seattle in the first round, a result that motivates the Sonics this time around.

"We're a lot more prepared," Payton said. "We've learned from that. It's not going to happen again. I promise you that."

Orlando (54-21) reigns among eastern clubs, with NBA scoring leader Shaquille O'Neal (29.5 points and 11.3 rebounds a game) and guard Anfernee Hardaway making the Magic a favourite even though they have never won a playoff game.

Indiana holds the upper hand for the number two seed with New York likely to be third. The Knicks were

one game away from a title last year but have been inconsistent this season.

"We need to just basically blow teams out for the last eight games," Knicks guard Anthony Bonner said. "We need to send a message because people don't think we're for real. It's like a joke even mentioning the Knicks going back to the NBA finals. That's something we're going to have to dispel real fast."

"We've had an up-and-down year. We haven't beaten the quality teams when we have had an opportunity — Orlando, Indiana, Chicago — so nobody takes us seriously. We have to let it go and get ready for the playoffs."

Charlotte appears set for the fourth slot and the unfortunate task of facing Michael Jordan-led Chicago in the opening round.

"It's up to us to control our destiny," Charlotte's Alonzo Mourning said. "We have the talent to accomplish a lot."

Cleveland and Atlanta will take the next two slots while Boston has the upper hand in a five-team fight for the final berth and the chance to open against Orlando. Whichever club survives will have a losing record.

Romario's injury has Flamengo counting losses

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Barely a week without Romario, Flamengo is counting the ways it misses its injured star.

With the World Cup's MVP on the sidelines, the team has stumbled in the Rio de Janeiro State Championship, lost the lead in the individual scoring race and watched contracts offers evaporate.

"We can't hide the reality," said coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo. "We miss Romario a lot."

Romario pulled up lame in the 19th minute of a game last Wednesday against Gama of Brasilia for the Brazil Cup, a tournament of state champions. He was replaced by Mazinho.

Doctors at first said it was a minor muscle pull and Romario would be back within a week. But the lesion in his right thigh — his "shooting" muscle — proved to be more serious than suspected.

His return now is scheduled for May 7, when Flamengo faces Vasco da Gama in the last game of the state championship finals.

Meanwhile, his club is counting its losses and struggling to stay on top.

Since arriving from Spain's Barcelona in January for a reported \$4.5 million, Romario has turned things around for Flamengo, Brazil's most popular team. After two mediocre seasons, the club has become the team to beat in Rio.

In March, Flamengo won the traditional Guanabara Cup, a qualifying round for the State Championship finals.

scoring race with 19 goals, two more than Tullio of Botafogo.

Ticket sales soared when Romario played. The boutique at Flamengo's headquarters reported a run on his No. 11 jersey. Offers for exhibition games poured in from

around Brazil and abroad. "He's simply the best player in the world," said Romario's teammate and fellow World Cup champion Branco.

But then came the injury, and the well suddenly ran dry.

Announcing a Friday Morning Worship Service with an International Protestant Community

The Reverend John Melin, Pastor of the International Church of Our Redeemer in Jerusalem, would like to start an interfaith Protestant Community here in Amman. He needs to know if there is sufficient interest for this endeavour.

Where: In the Lutheran Church off of Mecca St. (near the Jabber Complex).

Who: Anyone interested in an ecumenical Protestant Friday morning worship service. Services will be in English.

For more information and to express interest Please call 865738 (Amman) between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m.

ADVERTISEMENT CHANGE
The Advertisement published on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th requesting an Administrative Assistant for a U.S. Consulting Company, requests that:
ALL APPLICANTS MUST HOLD U.S. PASSPORT
Sorry for any inconvenience caused

JOB OPPORTUNITY SECRETARY / RECEPTIONIST

International company has immediate opening for an experienced secretary/receptionist. Excellent work environment. Ideal candidate will have strong computer/typing skills (Arabic and English) and be knowledgeable in use of Microsoft Word for Windows and Excel Spreadsheet. Good spoken English a must. Interested applicants should send their CV to the address below or fax it to 962-6-605277.
ServiceMaster Jordan
Att: Office Manager
P.O. Box 926871
Amman 11110 Jordan

GOREN BRIDGE
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
©1994 Tamar Hirsch Services, Inc.

GO FOR BROKE

East-West vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q J 7 6
♥ 5 4 3
♦ A 9 4
♣ 2 6 2

EAST
♠ 8 3
♥ 10 2
♦ K Q J 8 5 3 2
♣ K 10 7 4

SOUTH
♠ K 10 4
♥ Q J 10 7 5
♦ 10 9 4
♣ 8

The bidding:

West: 1♠, 2♠, 3♠, 4♠, 5♠, 6♠, 7♠, 8♠, 9♠, 10♠, 11♠, 12♠, 13♠, 14♠, 15♠, 16♠, 17♠, 18♠, 19♠, 20♠, 21♠, 22♠, 23♠, 24♠, 25♠, 26♠, 27♠, 28♠, 29♠, 30♠, 31♠, 32♠, 33♠, 34♠, 35♠, 36♠, 37♠, 38♠, 39♠, 40♠, 41♠, 42♠, 43♠, 44♠, 45♠, 46♠, 47♠, 48♠, 49♠, 50♠, 51♠, 52♠, 53♠, 54♠, 55♠, 56♠, 57♠, 58♠, 59♠, 60♠, 61♠, 62♠, 63♠, 64♠, 65♠, 66♠, 67♠, 68♠, 69♠, 70♠, 71♠, 72♠, 73♠, 74♠, 75♠, 76♠, 77♠, 78♠, 79♠, 80♠, 81♠, 82♠, 83♠, 84♠, 85♠, 86♠, 87♠, 88♠, 89♠, 90♠, 91♠, 92♠, 93♠, 94♠, 95♠, 96♠, 97♠, 98♠, 99♠, 100♠.

the other three players have all disclosed their values and a cue-bid would create a game force. North had a borderline acceptance—the third trump and ruffing value in diamonds versus the balance.

West led the king of clubs and East encouraged with the eight. West decided to take time out to review the probable distribution of the unseen hands.

South's jump to hearts guaranteed at least a six-card suit and, more likely than not, the king in partner's suit. East had to have four clubs for the value, marking declarer with a singleton. Therefore, the defenders had to take three tricks in

the red suits and do so quickly. The only hope for the defense to prevail was to find partner with the queen of diamonds, so, at trick two, West shifted to the king of diamonds. Declarer grabbed the ace and led a trump. West took the ace and continued with the jack of diamonds. East did his part for the partnership by overruling with the queen and returning the suit for West to ruff with the nine.

What went wrong? If declarer holds up the ace of diamonds once, East-West's communications are severed and the contract can't be defeated. Try it.

KELLOGGS
Save Over 20% on
Corn Flakes
500 Gram
JD 2.990

PANTENE
SHAMPOO OR
CONDITIONER
370 ML
JD 2.890

ULTRA BRITE
TOOTH PASTE
REG OR GEL
181 Gram
JD 1.690

REYNOLDS
ALUMINUM FOIL
HEAVY DUTY
37.5 SQ FT (81/3 X18 IN)
JD 1.200

BETTY CROCKER
CAKE MIXES
ALL FLAVOURS
517Grams
JD 1.250

FRENCH'S
MUSTARD
255 Grams JD 0.490
170 Grams JD 0.390

**A LOT MORE OFFERS
AWAIT YOU AT THE STORE**

Alahlia ~ Abela Superstore

How to become a freelance writer

by NICK DAWS
Freelance writing can be creative, fulfilling and a lot of fun, with excellent money to be made as well. What's more, anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or experience are required.

The market for writers is huge. In Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily, Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 8,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelancers. Then there are books, theatre, films, TV, radio.

With such demand, there's always room for new writers. But, as Mr. E. H. Metcalfe, principal of Britain's leading writing school The Writers Bureau, explains: "If you want to enjoy the rewards of seeing your work in print, one thing you must have is proper training."

The Writers Bureau runs a comprehensive correspondence course covering every aspect of fiction and non-fiction writing. The 140,000 word course is written by professional writers and has been acclaimed by experts. Students receive one-to-one guidance from tutors, all working writers themselves. From the start they are shown how to produce saleable work. "At the Bureau our philosophy is quite simple," says Mr. Metcalfe. "We will do everything in our power to help students become published writers."

The course comes on fifteen days free trial. In addition, the Bureau offers a remarkable money-back guarantee - if you haven't earned your tuition fees from published writing within one month of completing the course, your money will be refunded in full. So, would you like to be a writer? Why not start now by returning the coupon below?

Why Not Be A Writer?

First-class home-study course gets you a flying start. Earn while you learn. Expert tutors, personal guidance, help to sell your writing and much more! It's ideal for beginners. Details free. No cost. No obligation. Send the coupon.

Name (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE) _____
Address _____
City _____
Postcode _____

The Writers Bureau Dept. DX495,
Manchester M1 1JB Accredited by the C.A.C.C.
Tel (+44) 161 228 2282 Fax (+44) 161 228 3535

Syria welcomes Japanese role on Golan, says Israel seeking illegal measures

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria on Wednesday welcomed the prospect of Japanese participation in the U.N. peacekeeping operation on the Israeli-held Golan Heights, the official agency SANA reported.

Foreign Ministry Farouk Al Sharaa told a Japanese fact-finding mission here that "Syria welcomes Japan's proposal concerning its future participation in the U.N. Disengagement Observer Force."

Mr. Sharaa also renewed Syria's "commitment to the peace process, based on the principle of land for peace."

The Japanese delegation, comprising eight politicians from the ruling coalition of three parties, is in Syria to assess whether the country should provide troops to the U.N. force.

It was to visit the Golan Heights before travelling to Jordan and Israel and then returning to Japan on April 19.

The United Nations has asked Japan to replace some 50 Canadian transport specialists in the 1,000-strong U.N. force deployed on the Golan since 1974.

Under Japanese law, the government is not allowed to send troops to areas where a ceasefire is not in force.

Syria's peace talks with Israel, launched in 1991, are stalled over the scope and timetable of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

On Tuesday, Mr. Sharaa accused Israel of trying to force illegal security measures on Syria.

"The stalemate in the peace process is caused by Israel's attempts to impose security concepts that are incompatible with the principles of international law," Mr. Sharaa was quoted by the state-run SANA news agency as telling a cabinet

meeting. He said Israel's security proposals contradict U.N. Security Council resolutions on a land-for-peace settlement, which formed the basis of the Middle East peace conference launched in Madrid, Spain, four years ago.

Mr. Sharaa said Syria's talks with U.S. peace coordinator Dennis Ross earlier this week centred around the principles of "equality and balance" in security arrangements.

"The peace process is being blocked because of Israel's attempts to impose its own concept of security and to obtain privileges which contradict the U.N. Charter," Mr. Sharaa told the cabinet meeting.

Mr. Sharaa said security arrangements should be applied on both sides of the border line which separated Syria and Israel on the eve of the 1967 Middle East.

Mr. Sharaa said the Syrian position was relayed to Mr. Ross who held talks in Damascus on Saturday. He said that Damascus, "which has wide backing by the Arab people everywhere," would continue to insist on its position.

"Talks with Ross centred on the principles of balance and equality in security arrangement which should be applied on both sides of the June 4, 1967 line," Mr. Sharaa said.

Diplomats said Israel was arguing that a small part of the Golan which was under Syrian control before the war belonged to what was Palestine decades ago and thus wanted to keep it.

"Sharaa's reference to the June 4, 1967 line has special significance because it showed that Damascus wants full return of all the lands which were under its control," one diplomat said.

"Syria was and still is keen to achieve a just and comprehensive peace on basis of the U.N. resolutions and the land for peace principle," Mr. Sharaa said.

Mr. Ross had over six hours of talks with President Hafez Al Assad on Saturday on the possibility of expanding the current Syrian-Israeli peace talks, held at ambassadorial level, to group military experts.

But the U.S. envoy, who had talks later in Israel, said no breakthrough was made to bring in military leaders to the faltering negotiations.

Syria said earlier on Tuesday it was in no hurry to agree a peace settlement with Israel while Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was still in power.

"Syria is not in a rush for a solution. Syria does not have to accept deformed settlements whether Rabin stayed in power or left," Mohammad Khair Al Wadi, chief editor of the government daily Tishreen, wrote in an article.

He was referring to calls for Syria to reach a peace settlement with Israel while Mr. Rabin, seen as a more conciliatory leader, was still in power. Israel's general elections are due in 1996.

Later Wednesday the Japanese delegation visited the Golan Heights.

The 22-strong delegation toured the U.N.-built village of Camp Fawar which acts as a headquarters for the U.N. Disengagement Observer Forces (UNDOF) on the strategic heights and held talks with the head of the force, Dutch General Johannes Koster.

About 400 soldiers live in the camp in pre-fabricated houses which include a medical centre, conference hall, tennis courts and a church.

APC posts JD 24.4m net profit

AMMAN (R) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) said on Wednesday net profits rose 10.4 per cent to JD24.4 million in 1994.

Net profits in 1993 stood at JD 22.1 million. Company officials expect net profits to reach JD 35 million in 1995.

The company's board will propose at its annual general meeting on April 25 a cash dividend of 180 fils per share for 1994 at a nominal value of one dinar, a drop from 200 fils distributed for 1993 results.

The enterprise, a key public shareholding company — 57 per cent of shares owned by the state — has minority holdings by a number of Arab states, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Production rose to 1.55 million tonnes in 1994 against 1.37 million tonnes in 1993, officials said.

Exports topped 1.52 million tonnes in 1994 against 1.48 million tonnes in 1993, drawing on some stockpiles.

The company's sales target for 1995 is to top \$160 million from \$140 million in 1994, banking on a 13 per cent rise in potash production capacity to 1.75 million tonnes and forecasts for firmer world prices.

Company officials base their higher projections on expectations potash prices will rise \$4 dollars in the first half of 1995 and a similar rise in the second half of 1995 from a current \$110 per tonne due to rising demand.

Potash production rose to 362,000 tonnes in the first quarter 1995 from 321,000 tonnes in the same period last year.

Sales of potash also rose significantly to 378,000 tonnes from 262,000 tonnes in the first quarter of 1994.

India was the company's main client in the first quarter of 1995, buying 90,000 tonnes, followed by Italy with 60,000 tonnes. India contracted 600,000 tonnes for delivery in 1995.



A Bosnian Serb tank crew load their la. The international contact group talks with shells at the frontline on was due to meet in Sarajevo for talks Majevisa mountain overlooking the on peace as fighting flared on several north Bosnian U.N. safe zone of Tuz- fronts (AFP photo)

U.S.-N. Korea nuclear talks resume in Berlin

BERLIN (Agencies) — Key talks to save a U.S. deal with North Korea to replace its nuclear reactors with safer ones will continue in Berlin Thursday, a U.S. spokesman said.

This latest round of talks in Berlin between the two sides began Wednesday, and they are scheduled to last at least until Friday.

The talks are aimed at consolidating an accord reached between the two sides in Geneva last October to replace North Korea's graphite-moderated reactors with two 1000-megawatt light-water (LWR) types which produce less plutonium, the ingredient of nuclear bombs.

In the face of intense pressure from Washington, which suspected North Korea of seeking to make nuclear weapons, Pyongyang agreed to freeze its nuclear programme in exchange for the supply of replacement reactors and alternative fuel for domestic energy purposes during an interim period.

However, North Korea, citing political and safety reasons, has steadfastly refused to accept South Korea as the main supplier of the reactors, despite South Korean and U.S. insistence.

South Korea has agreed to meet around three-quarters of the total reactor replacement project cost of over \$4 billion.

An earlier round of talks between the two sides on the issue in Berlin last month was broken off ahead of schedule because of the failure to agree.

As the talks got under way in Berlin, a statement from North Korea said: "If the United States attempts to test

Group sues Gad Al Haq over fatwa on female circumcision

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) on Wednesday sued the world's highest Sunni Muslim authority for encouraging female circumcision.

"This is the first time a court case has been filed against the imam of Al Azhar," EOHR Secretary General Negad Borai told AFP.

The suit, which also names Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and his premier for appointing the imam, was filed on Wednesday and will go to court on May 6.

The EOHR is demanding that Sheikh Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq pays 500,000 Egyptian pounds (\$150,000 "as compensation for the moral damage" caused by a fatwa, or religious decree, made in October 1994.

The fatwa judged that "circumcision is a duty for men and women and if the citizens of a country refrain from practising it, the imam should challenge them as if they were ignoring the call to prayer," the EOHR said in a statement.

The imam committed an error by disseminating untrue religious views which contravene the unanimous opinion of Islamic clerics and help to spread a deplorable social practice which is in fact an African pagan custom," the EOHR said.

The rights group said the fatwa was particularly dangerous because it came from Al Azhar, which "has the final say on all religious matters."

The damages are to go to population ministry to finance a campaign by non-governmental organisations against female genital mutilation.

The EOHR estimates that 3,600 girls are circumcised daily in Egypt.

"Islam does not allow any practise that constitutes harm to society," the organisation said.

"Many reputable doctors have affirmed the serious social and psychological harm caused by female genital mutilation," it added.

The EOHR stressed that the Prophet Mohammad "did not circumcise his own daughters" and cited Islamic scholars who have shown that the practice has no religious basis — among the Egypt's Grand Mufti Sheikh Mohammad Tantawi.

The group alleged in its suit the Sheikh Gad Al Haq had wrongly asserted that certain hadiths, or sayings of the prophet, advocating male circumcision equally applied to women.

He also called for retaliation against opponents to the practice, tantamount to "a call to violent terrorist groups" and "incitement against the government," which has tried to ban circumcision.

The government backed off from a draft law banning the practice in October after the fatwa was issued.

Health Minister Ali Abdullatif Fattah said he could not bar a "custom practiced for hundreds of years by 98 per cent of families in rural areas and a70 per cent of the urban population."

In Egyptian law female circumcision is permitted providing it is done in hospital. But mostly local "health barbers" perform it in unhygienic conditions in homes or outside at religious festivals.

Column 800000

Royal flats for rent

LONDON (AFP) — The royal family is to rent out nearly 60 flats or homes which have been used up to now by servants, Buckingham Palace announced. A cottage in the grounds of Hampton Court, southwest of London, will be the first to be put on the market, followed by a flat in the chic Kensington Quarter of West London. Those two properties should fetch Queen Elizabeth around £35,000 (\$56,000), the palace added. It said rents from the properties, none of them inside the security cordons of royal residences, will be used for the upkeep of royal buildings and allow for savings. The royal family currently has 265 flats and homes which it rents to staff at rents much lower than their market value. Buckingham Palace, however, hopes the measure will bring it in a total of between £400,000 (\$640,000) and £700,000 (\$1,120,000) a year.

Diana to visit Hong Kong

LONDON (AFP) — Princess Diana, the Princess of Wales, will visit Hong Kong from April 21 to 23, Buckingham Palace announced late Tuesday. During her three-day stay, the princess will visit a drug rehabilitation unit, a cancer research and care unit and projects for the homeless, a spokesman said. "The princess wants to look and learn," the spokesman said, adding that the princess's programme in Hong Kong covered "issues she is closely involved with," in Britain.

Patient cured by temporary insertion of artificial heart

BERLIN (AFP) — For the first time a heart patient has been cured by the insertion of an artificial heart for 160 days, the Berlin Cardiology Centre announced. If this method of treatment proves effective in the long-term, it could offer a new treatment for seriously ill patients, said Roland Hetzer, the centre's director. Matthias Linzmeier, 38, was admitted to hospital at the end of September last year. His heart condition meant he was short of breath and his lungs were full of fluid. In the absence of an available transplant, doctors connected him to an artificial heart which pumped his blood, and eased the load in his own heart until it began to function properly. For five weeks Mr. Linzmeier has appeared well and can eat and move normally, according to the cardiologist centre. Until now artificial hearts have been used only pending a heart transplant.

Burglars loot top Indian minister's house

NEW DELHI (AP) — Burglars tied up a servant of India's top government minister and looted his house while eight armed guards slept, a news agency reported Tuesday. Details of the burglary at the home of Interior Minister S.B. Chavan were not immediately available, but United News of India news agency quoted unnamed police officials as saying no one has been arrested so far. The armed robbers broke into the house Monday night, UNL said. The house is in Nanded, a town in central India. The minister and his family live in the capital, New Delhi.

Human foetuses on the menu in China

HONG KONG (AFP) — Human foetuses are the latest health food fad in China, with one state-run clinic giving them away to women who consider them a tonic, the Hong Kong newspaper said Wednesday. The foetuses, typically a few months old, are the result of abortions conducted in Shenzhen, across the border from Hong Kong. Eastern Express said in a report based on investigations by its sister magazine, Eastweek. "They can make your skin smoother, your body stronger, and are good for the kidneys," a doctor at the city's Sin Hua clinic was quoted as saying, adding that she personally liked her foetuses with pork soup.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CIA seeks funds for Iraq, Iran operations

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has asked Congress for \$19 million for covert operations in Iraq and Iran, the New York Times newspaper said Wednesday. Quoting unidentified administration officials, the daily said \$15 million would be spent to destabilise Iraq and another four million to curb Iran's expansionist ambitions. Designed to support the White House's stated policy goal of "dual containment," the funding for Iraq was aimed at weakening but not specifically overthrowing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and finance opposition groups in exile. While it is not known when CIA covert operation in Iran began, the intelligence agency's programme in Iraq started after the 1991 Gulf war expelled Iraq from Kuwait. Funding, however, was scaled back from \$40 million a year in 1992 to less than \$20 million after it became clear the programme had failed to weaken the Iraqi leader.

Iraqi, Omani ministers hold talks

MUSCAT (R) — Iraqi Minister of Finance Ahmad Hussein Khudayyar held talks in Muscat on Wednesday, the second Iraqi minister to visit the sultanate in two months. Officials said Mr. Khudayyar met Omani's Minister of State for Foreign Minister Yusuf Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah. They did not give details. Mr. Khudayyar is in Oman to attend the annual meeting of Arab finance and economy ministers and central bank governors who head the Arab League's main financial and economic funds, the officials said. Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sabah had visited Oman and Qatar in March. Iraq's Oil Minister Safa Haddi Jawad Al Nabubi on Wednesday ended a visit to Qatar.

Peres may visit two Gulf Arab countries

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres may make a ground-breaking visit to Qatar and Oman next week, officials said Wednesday. Mr. Peres himself said Sunday that he was to visit two Arab countries but he did not identify them. If confirmed it would be the first visit by a member of the Israeli government to Qatar. Oman hosted a visit by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in December and became the first Gulf Arab state to welcome an official Israeli delegation a year ago for a session of multilateral Middle East peace talks.

China to send aid to Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — China is to give Iraq aid worth \$37,000 to help alleviate suffering under a United Nations trade embargo. Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Liu Shan Zai said Wednesday. Mr. Liu, quoted by the Iraqi daily Al Jumhuriya, said the aid was to help the Iraqi people. The minister, in Baghdad for talks about strengthening commercial ties between the two countries, was due to lead his country's delegation at a meeting of the joint Iraqi-Chinese cooperation commission.

'S. Arabia has 500,000 illegals'

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia believes it has more than 500,000 illegal immigrants and is trying to persuade them to legalise their status or leave voluntarily, the newspaper Al Ashraq Al Awsat said on Wednesday. "We want to resolve this problem quickly and in a humane manner," the Saudi-owned paper published in London quoted an unnamed senior official as saying. The newspaper said 250,000-350,000 illegal residents were repatriated last year.

Iran seeks 'Islamic unity' with Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Iran called for "Islamic unity" with Sudan against the West as the two countries decided to establish a joint investment company on Wednesday. "We have to unite before our enemies. Islamic unity has to be created," Iran's Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri told the Sudanese national assembly. Iran and Sudan

both "face vicious attacks from the West under false allegations that they support terrorism," the speaker said. "The West knows very well that the lofty message of Islam is innocent of such accusations," he said. The West was the real leader of terrorism and abuse of human rights. Just as Hitler and Genghis Khan depended on war to control the world, America today is using the fields of culture and the economy," He said the civil war in Sudan was a "plot to undermine the unity of this Islamic state" and reflects "the fears of the enemies of Islam."

Sufi mystics seek to ban 'The Emigrant'

CAIRO (AFP) — Six million Sufi mystics have joined the attack on the latest film by Egyptian director Youssef Shahin, which Sunni Islam's highest authority and a Coptic Christian lawyer have already demanded be banned. The Supreme Council of Sufi Paths (SCSP) filed a law suit "in the name of its six million followers" before the Cairo appeal court to ban "The Emigrant," the council's lawyer Ibrahim Laban, told AFP Wednesday. The SCSP president, Sheikh Ahmad Abdul Hadi Al Qasbi, filed the case because "this film is an affront to Islam and the Prophet Joseph," Mr. Laban said. SCSP Secretary General Sheikh Abdul Hamid Abdul Latif told AFP that "certain institutions and personalities asked us to intervene in the courts to support" the Islamist lawyer, Mahmoud Abu Al Faid, whose case against the film was defeated in March. Mr. Abdul Latif refused to name the groups that made the requests, adding that the SCSP was "a religious institution in charge of protecting moral values of Islam."

France 'disappointed' over UNICEF job

PARIS (AFP) — France on Wednesday voiced European Union (EU) "disappointment" over the nomination Monday of American Carol Bellamy as head of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). French foreign ministry spokesman Richard Dugue, whose country is current EU president, said France had done all it could for a European to be named to the job, adding that the 15 EU members were "by far the first contributors" to UNICEF. "It seemed to us that the time had come to give the post of UNICEF director-general to a European for the first time," Mr. Dugue said. Following several weeks of behind-the-scenes wrangling, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali announced late Monday that Peace Corps director Bellamy had been chosen to head UNICEF. The appointment thwarted the EU's attempt to wrest the top job from 50 years of U.S. control.

Velayati defends Russian nuclear deal

ROME (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on Wednesday defended Russia's proposed sale of nuclear technology to his country, saying it would not be used for military purposes. "Our commercial relationship with Russia is peaceful in nature," Mr. Velayati told Italian radio in a telephone interview from Tehran. He dismissed criticism of Russia's plan to build four nuclear reactors for Iran in a contract valued at between \$800 million and \$1 billion. "We respect the norms of the international community and the rules of the International Atomic Energy Agency," he said. "We have signed the accord on nuclear non-proliferation and the agency has confirmed that our activity does not have military ends."

Lebanon murder trial postponed

BEIRUT (AFP) — The trial of the Lebanese men over the 1976 murder of U.S. ambassador Francis Meloy was postponed here on Wednesday after defence failed to turn up, officials said. The trial was reopened at the request of the state prosecutor, Munif Uweidat, in March and held up until April to allow the defence to prepare for the case. Judge Muin Osseiran on Wednesday postponed the trial until June 7 after the defence lawyers for Bassem Mohammad Al Firah and Naim Ahmad Kamel failed to appear in court on time. It would be the final delay, he said.